

TRIBUTE EDITION

People

1926-2022

QUEEN ELIZABETH II

A Celebration *of*
Her Life and Reign



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QUEEN
ELIZABETH II

1926 - 2022



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Her Majesty (also known as Gan-Gan) marked 70 years on the throne in June 2022 with (from left) Louis, Kate, Charlotte, George and William.



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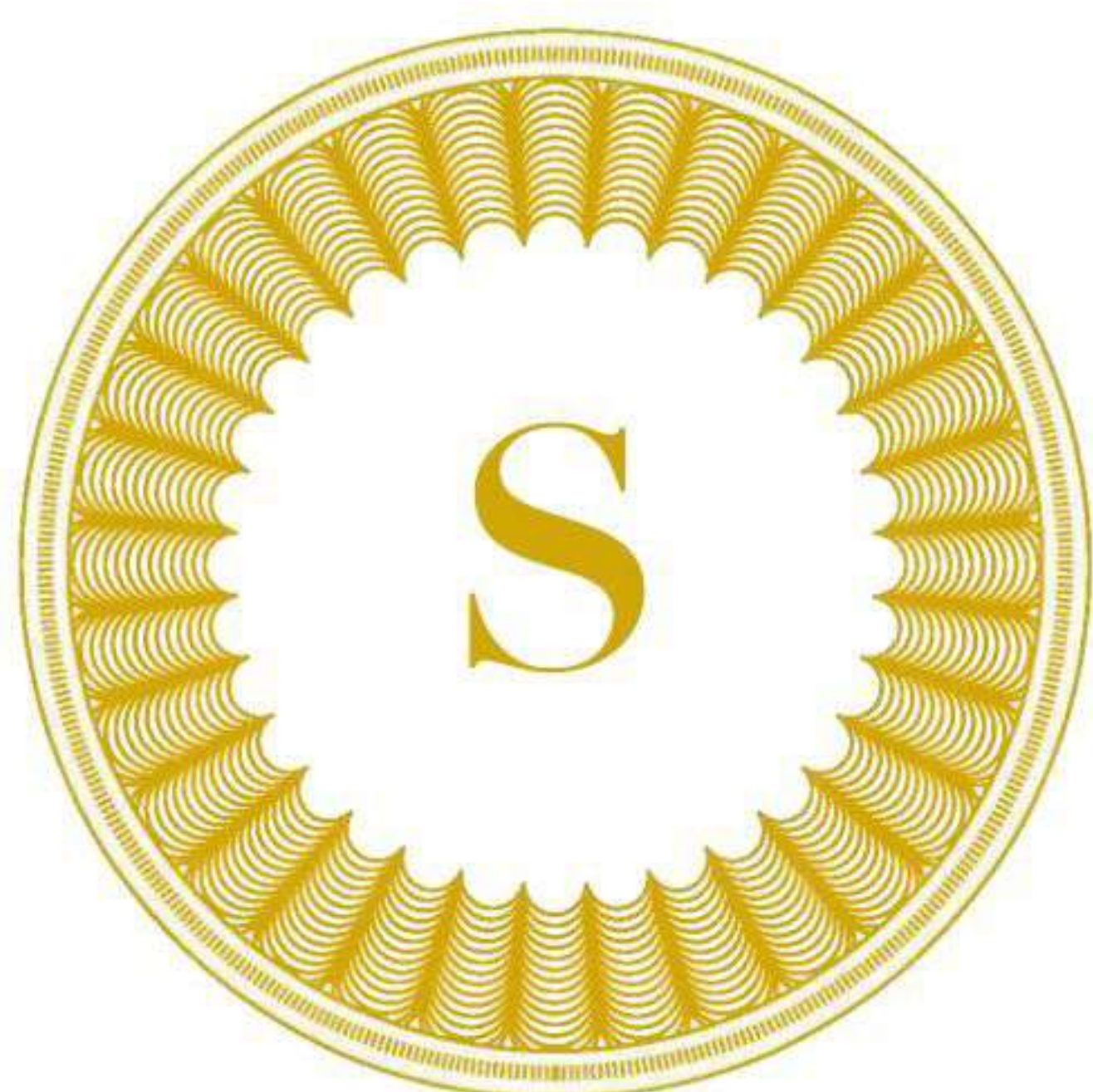
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HER PLATINUM JUBILEE

A never-before-seen milestone:
The Queen's 70 years on the throne was celebrated at home and abroad with fond memories and great fanfare

A QUEEN UNLIKE ANY OTHER

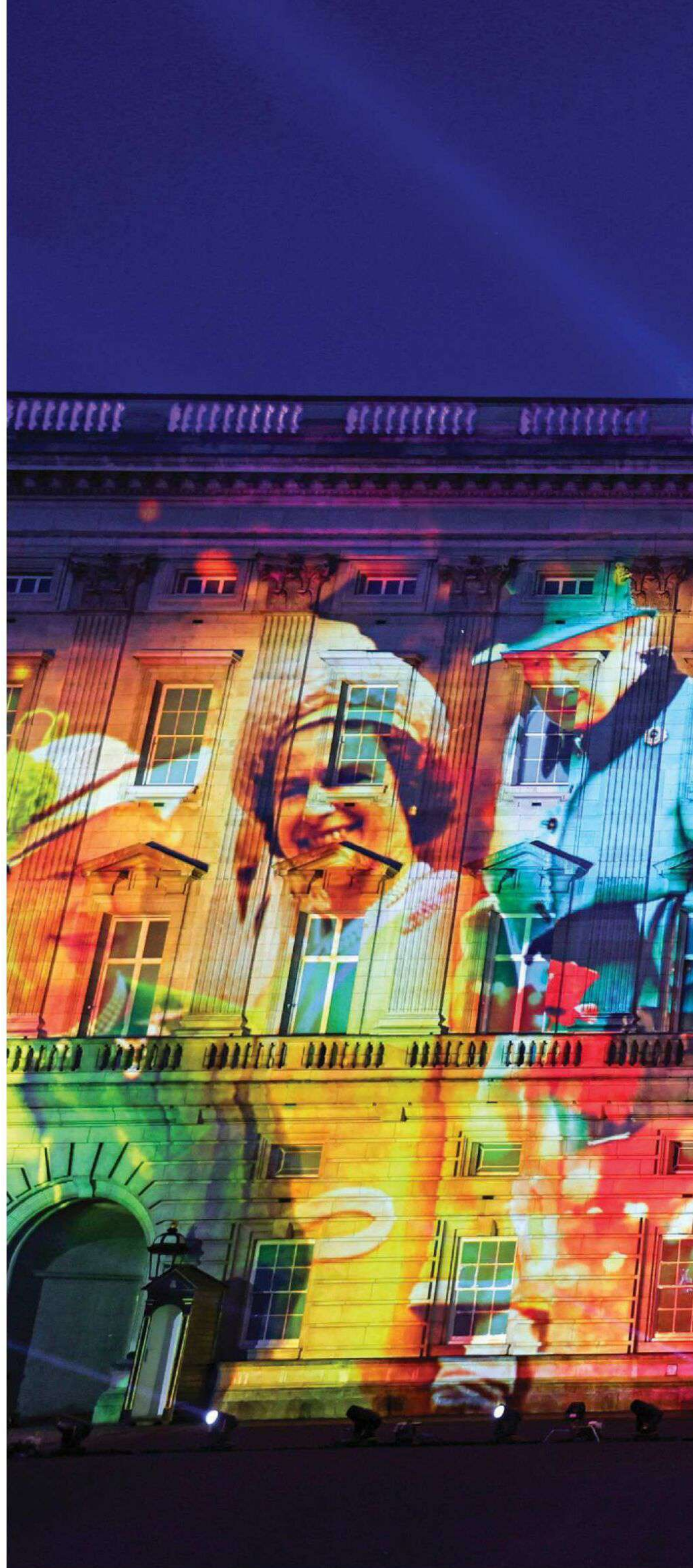
ELIZABETH II
HAD AN INTUITIVE SENSE
OF OCCASION THAT
MADE HER THE ULTIMATE
MODERN MONARCH



SOME OF THE CLICHÉS ARE TRUE: She loved corgis, gin cocktails and horses, and rode well into her 10th decade. But she was also interested in space exploration. Given a camera as a wedding gift, she became an enthusiastic photographer. In her 80s, she sat front row at her first Fashion Week, sent her first tweet and became a fan of *Downton Abbey* (her grandfather was a character). She was known to point out the show's rare gaffes, for she was nothing if not keenly attuned to history.

Even before she succeeded to the throne at age 25, Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor, coronated as Elizabeth II, accepted her role with unwavering seriousness, whether rallying British youth during wartime or returning to work after the April 2021 death of Prince Philip, her husband of 73 years. She could be stern, urging world leaders at the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Glasgow to “rise above the politics of the moment.” But she also kept a throw pillow at Balmoral reading “It’s good to be Queen!” That mix of earnestness and humor, of strength and

coziness typified Elizabeth II, who died on Sept. 8, 2022, at 96. She “was the rock on which modern Britain was built,” said Prime Minister Liz Truss, the 15th to serve under the Queen, who had appointed her with a handshake just two days earlier. Helen Mirren, who twice portrayed Her Majesty, cheered her “indomitable spirit,” saying, “I’m not a royalist; I’m a *Queenist*.” Even critics of the monarchy as an institution grew a soft spot for her. In 1977 the Sex Pistols had tried to disrupt Elizabeth’s Silver Jubilee by blasting their anti-royalist punk anthem “God Save the Queen” from





THE AGES OF ELIZABETH

Buckingham Palace lit up in June 2022 on the occasion of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

a boat in the Thames. Forty years on, singer Johnny Lydon was a fan. "It's not her fault she was born into a gilded cage.... Long may she live!" he told the BBC in 2017, adding, "I love all the pageantry too."

Not even the Queen herself loved all the regalia. She was said to be largely "disinterested in jewelry," though she knew how to deploy it. A butterfly pin worn for the Glasgow address movingly matched a photo placed behind her, of her late husband surrounded by butterflies on a conservation trip to Mexico. While hosting then-President Donald

Trump, she wore a flower brooch gifted by the Obamas. (Yes, the Queen threw shade.) Of the 2.3-lb. bejeweled Imperial State Crown worn to open Parliament, she said, "You can't look down to read the speech; you have to take the speech up. Because if you did, your neck would break—it would fall off." But regarding the symbolic weight of the Crown, she was more philosophical: It was hers for life. As it now passes to her son Charles and historians move to assess this Elizabethan age, one truth seems evident: There won't be another like her.



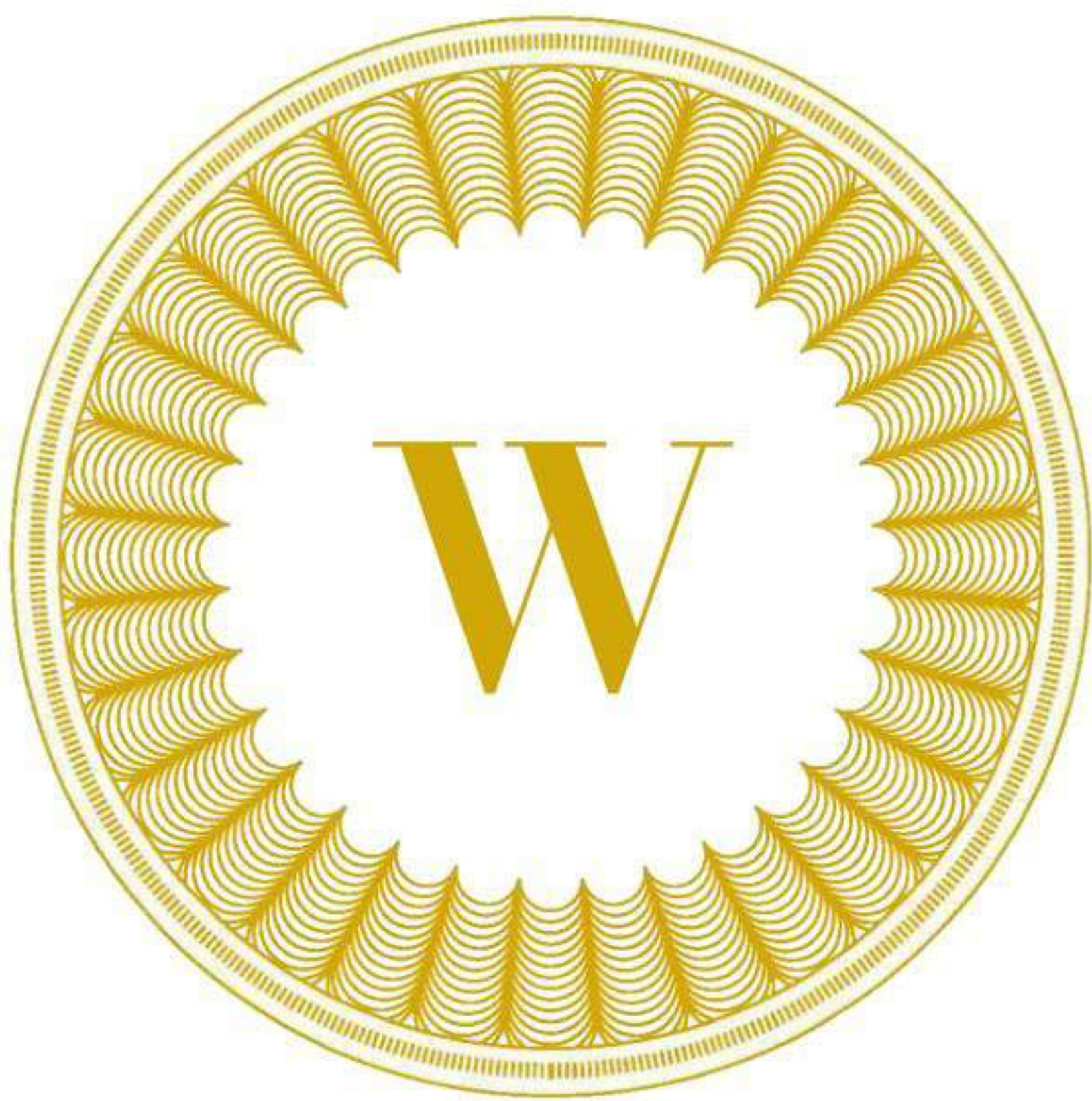
PRINCESS ELIZABETH

BORN WITH NO EXPECTATION
OF BECOMING A MONARCH,
SHE ENJOYED AN IDYLIC
CHILDHOOD OF 'PICNICS AND
PADDLING IN STREAMS.' THAT ALL
CHANGED IN 1936,
WHEN HER UNCLE'S ABDICATION
REDIRECTED HER FATE



CHRISTENING, 1926

In a silk gown dating to the early Victorian era and baptized with water from the River Jordan, the new princess (with parents Albert and Elizabeth) cried so much that she had to be doused with dill water.



WHEN ELIZABETH ALEXANDRA Mary Windsor was born on April 21, 1926, in her maternal grandparents' Mayfair townhouse, she seemed destined for a life of quiet privilege as a member of the royal family. The daughter of the second son of King George V, she was third in the line of succession, behind the heir apparent, her bachelor uncle David (officially Edward, Prince of Wales) and her father, Prince Albert, Duke of York, affectionately known as Bertie. Still, her arrival was big news—a new princess in the palace! Fleet Street reporters nicknamed her “Baby Betty” and breathlessly reported her first yawn, her open-carriage perambulation into Hyde Park and a sighting of her in a Buckingham Palace nursery window, sucking her thumb. Winston Churchill—who would later become her first Prime Minister—perceived an “air of authority and reflectiveness astonishing in an infant.” Prescient as those words would be, the young Elizabeth was not always regal—visitors to the family home at 145 Piccadilly could count on being bombarded with teddy bears flung down the stairs from the nursery landing.

In America, the press was equally agog. *Time* magazine declared that the eight-month-old princess had “gained the reputation of being distinctly self-possessed” and put her on its cover at the age of three. Smart New York shops sold imported “Princess Elizabeth Prams” for \$250 and children all over America were dressed in yellow, said to be her favorite color.

Her parents, Albert and Elizabeth, the Duke and Duchess of York, were doting and valued family life, but as befit the times, nannies and governesses did most of the child rearing. The Yorks also held to the tradition of leaving the children at home while on royal tours. Still, the Duchess was bereft at having to leave her 8-month-old after the King sent



1932

With younger sister Margaret on a dappled grey rocking horse. Their governess Marion Crawford said the girls' love of toy horses “continued until real living horses began to play a more important place in their lives.”

1936

Elizabeth was 7 when her parents acquired their first corgi, Dookie, and she was never without one again. She got Susan when she was 18 and took her along on her honeymoon. When the dog died in 1959, her headstone read, “faithful companion of the Queen.”



1937
King George VI and
family after his
coronation. Seemingly
overnight, they had
to leave their cozy home
for the drafty halls
of Buckingham Palace.



them on an extended trip to Australia. “It quite broke me up,” she wrote to her mother-in-law, Queen Mary, about her departure. “The baby was so sweet playing with the buttons on Bertie’s uniform.”

When second daughter Margaret Rose was born in 1930, “big sister Betty demanded to see the new baby at once,” reported *Time*, then “announced later that she preferred it to all her other pets; her chow dog, her canary, her Shetland pony Jessie, a present from Granddaddy George V. Their parents “were determined to keep their daughters’ lives free from the shadow of the Crown,” particularly because Bertie, shy and with a chronic stammer, had been cruelly neglected as a child. Lilibet and Margot (as the family called her) were raised as equals, sharing the same nursery and often wearing identical clothes. But their personalities were quite different: Elizabeth was polite and responsible, Margaret, outgoing and rebellious. Yet they forged an unbreakable bond that would last their lifetimes.

Their early years were blessed with “a jolly childhood—there would be riding and bicycling and other country pursuits,” said their cousin Margaret Rhodes. The girls romped around various royal estates, playing with corgis (Elizabeth’s lifelong favorite) and learning to ride and train a procession of ponies.



1939

Elizabeth (front row, far left) with the rest of the Challenge Cup swimming team in London. At 13, she won a medal from the Royal Life Saving Society (her speciality was the breaststroke) and later became its patron.

1938

The princesses and the King on the grounds of Windsor Great Park. Of his two daughters, he said, “Lilibet is my pride, Margaret my joy.”







1940

Early in WWII Elizabeth, then 14 (with Margaret, 10), gave her first radio address, speaking to children who left home to escape the threat of German bombs.

Their education was the matter of some family debate. There was talk of sending Elizabeth to private school (a first for a female royal), but “the difficulty of choosing a suitable school without causing great jealousy,” made the idea impractical, according to the *Sunday Times*. Their mother favored light reading, fresh air and fun, but their Scottish governess Marion “Crawfie” Crawford, with the backing of their formidable grandmother Queen Mary, believed in a more formal, if sporadic education. Crawfie taught them history, geography, grammar and literature, and other tutors covered French (Elizabeth was to become fluent), music and dance. True to her nature, Elizabeth was a stalwart, if not spectacular student.

In 1936 Elizabeth’s life was forever changed when King George V died, setting off a succession drama worthy of Shakespeare. David, the oldest son, acceded to the throne as Edward VIII, but his determination to marry the twice-divorced American Wallis Simpson—despite its prohibition by church law and objections to by government—sparked a constitutional crisis. After just 10 months, Edward renounced the throne, thrusting his reluctant and unprepared brother into the role on Dec. 10, 1936. Elizabeth’s father became King George VI.

Elizabeth, only 10, was suddenly heiress presumptive. “Does that mean you’re going to be Queen?” Margaret asked her sister. “Yes, I suppose it does,” said Elizabeth. “Poor you,” said Margaret. According to Lady Strathmore, the girls’ maternal grandmother, when the news broke, Elizabeth started “ardently praying for a brother.” At age 11, she moved with her family from their cozy home into the daunting Buckingham Palace and began her tutelage for the monarchy. (That meant lessons in constitutional

“

AND WHEN
PEACE COMES,
REMEMBER,
IT WILL BE FOR
US, THE CHILDREN
OF TODAY, TO
MAKE THE WORLD
OF TOMORROW
A BETTER AND
HAPPIER PLACE”

—**PRINCESS ELIZABETH’S
WARTIME RADIO
BROADCAST**

BELOVED PAPA

THE ACCIDENTAL KING MADE CERTAIN HIS DAUGHTER WAS BETTER PREPARED FOR THE THRONE THAN HE

"We always wanted a child to make our happiness complete," wrote Prince Albert, Duke of York (known in the family as Bertie), when Elizabeth was born. Father and daughter remained close throughout his life, especially when it became clear that she would one day follow him to the throne. With his reticence and speech impediment (which he would later overcome with the help of a pioneering therapist), the duke was largely unprepared to be King when his brother Edward abdicated in 1936; he was determined that his firstborn, then 10, not suffer the same fate. As King George VI, he, along with other experts, educated Elizabeth in affairs of state. The princess was an eager student and very much wanted to please her father. His influence could be seen in her unwavering work ethic, a devotion to tradition and a lifelong commitment to public service.

The King could be overprotective—he initially resisted his daughter's desire to work outside the palace during the war—and his feelings about her marriage were poignantly ambivalent. In a letter he wrote shortly after her 1947 wedding (and which the Queen made public on her 68th wedding anniversary), he spoke of pride in his daughter, but also that he had lost something

"very precious" when he walked her down the aisle. "Your leaving us has left a great blank in our lives, but do remember that your old home is still yours . . . and do come back to it as much and as often as possible," he added wistfully. "I can see that you are sublimely happy with Philip, which is right, but don't forget us is the wish of your ever loving and devoted . . . Papa."

When her father died in 1952, the 25-year-old Queen addressed her subjects and hinted at the depth of her grief: "My heart is too full for me to say more to you today than I shall always work, as my father did

throughout his reign, to advance the happiness and prosperity of my peoples." Privately the normally reserved Queen revealed her shock and heartbreak in a letter to his former assistant private secretary, Sir Eric Mievill: "It all seems so unbelievable still that my father is no longer here, and it is only after some time has passed one begins to realize how much he is missed."

Indeed, the Queen's choice of a low-key celebration when she became Britain's longest-serving monarch may reflect that the day of her ascension to the throne was also the day her beloved father died.



1942

George VI (at Windsor Castle) coached Elizabeth to be his successor, introducing her to world leaders and explaining the "red boxes" that contained official documents.



history and parliamentary procedure with Sir Henry Marten, vice-provost of Eton College, and religious instruction with the Archbishop of Canterbury.) The King and Queen, aware of the added pressures on their daughter, asked Crawfie to organize a Girl Guide troop, which met Wednesday afternoons at the palace. Elizabeth was second-in-command of the Fisher patrol and, like all the other girls, learned to tie knots, pitch tents and cook over a campfire. Knowing what lay ahead, they aimed to give their daughter at least this measure of normalcy.

In many ways, of course, she was a normal girl, prone to crushes like anyone. At 13, during a July 22, 1939, visit with her father to his alma mater, the Royal Naval College at Dartmouth, she was introduced to a tall blond cadet five years her senior, Prince Philip of Greece. Like Elizabeth, he was a great-great-grandchild of Queen Victoria (which made him her third cousin), and also a nephew of the celebrated British naval commander and diplomat, Lord Louis Mountbatten. The princess, recalled Lord Mountbatten, “followed him everywhere.” But her infatuation would have to wait. Six weeks later, on Sept. 3, Britain declared war on Nazi Germany.

1946

The royal family at the 30-room Royal Lodge at Windsor Castle, Elizabeth and Margaret’s home during the war years.

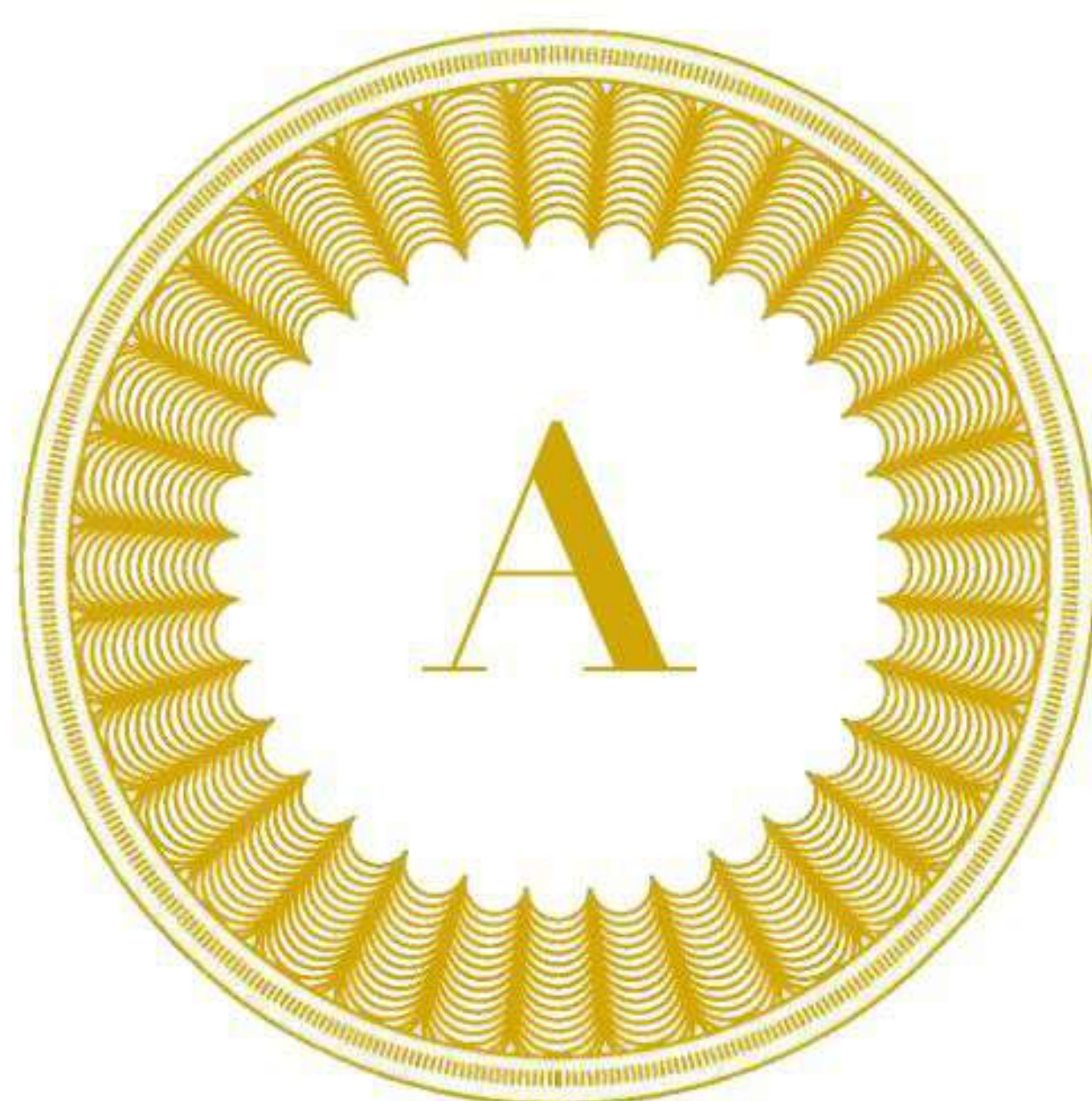
1947

Right: Elizabeth playing spirited deck games with the crew of HMS *Vanguard* during the royal family’s trip to South Africa. It was the first official overseas tour for “we four,” the affectionate name the King had given to his family.



THE WAR YEARS

AT 14 ELIZABETH GAVE HER FIRST RADIO BROADCAST, TELLING THE CHILDREN OF BRITAIN “THAT IN THE END, ALL WILL BE WELL.” FOUR YEARS LATER, SHE DONNED AN ARMY UNIFORM AND BECAME AN EXPERT DRIVER AND MECHANIC



AFTER BRITAIN’S DECLARATION OF WAR on Sept. 3, 1939, Elizabeth and Margaret were sent to Windsor Castle, 22 miles west of London, where it was felt they would be protected from German air strikes. When the British cabinet advised their mother the Queen that they would be safer still in Canada, she memorably replied, “The children won’t go without me. I won’t leave the King. And the King will never leave.” They visited their daughters on weekends but stayed in London as bombs were dropped on Buckingham Palace—it was hit nine times, including once when they were in residence.

Elizabeth rolled bandages for the war effort and contributed to the Red Cross and the Air Ambulance Fund from her five-shilling weekly allowance. She also made her first radio broadcast in October 1940, addressing the thousands of children who had been evacuated from their homes and separated from their families. “My sister, Margaret Rose, and I feel so much for you, as we know from experience what it means to be away from those we love most of all.” (The recording proved so popular that the BBC turned it into a bestselling record.)

Eager to serve, Elizabeth, almost 19, persuaded her father to let her join the Auxiliary Territorial Service, a women’s army unit, to be trained in vehicle maintenance. Though pardoned from basic training and head-lice inspection, No. 230873 2nd Lt. Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor soon learned to drive a three-ton truck, rotate wheels and strip down an engine.

On V-E Day, May 8, 1945, she and her sister slipped away from the palace and mingled incognito with the crowds, linking arms and singing songs. For two nights she “walked simply miles,” she wrote in her journal, “ate, partied, bed 3 a.m.!” Forty years later she would say, “It was one of the most memorable nights of my life.”

ON DUTY

Princess Elizabeth in her Auxiliary Territorial Service uniform. She was the first woman in the Royal Family to join the Armed Services as a full-time active member.



“

“AS ELIZABETH, DUNGAREE-CLAD, HER PRETTY FACE SMEARED WITH GREASE, LEARNED TO DRIVE AND DISMANTLE ARMY TRUCKS, THE EMPIRE BEAMED WITH APPROVAL.”

—**TIME MAGAZINE, 3/31/47**



ROYAL MECHANIC

She was excused from boot camp and slept in Windsor Castle each night, but Elizabeth's training was real. "Everything I learnt was new to me—all the oddities of the insides of a car," she told a friend. "I've never worked so hard in my life."



CONSOLING THE WOUNDED

Elizabeth visiting Children's Hospital in London's Hackney neighborhood, which was especially hard hit by German bombs.

COMRADES IN TRAINING

Top right: Elizabeth (top center) with senior and junior noncommissioned officers in the Mechanical Transport Training Section in Camberley, Surrey. By the end of the war she had reached the rank of junior commander.

“

IT WAS A CINDERELLA MOMENT IN REVERSE.... THEY COULD PRETEND THAT THEY WERE ORDINARY AND UNKNOWN”

—COUSIN MARGARET RHODES ON THE PRINCESSES CELEBRATING V-E DAY IN THE STREETS



MEETING THE PEOPLE

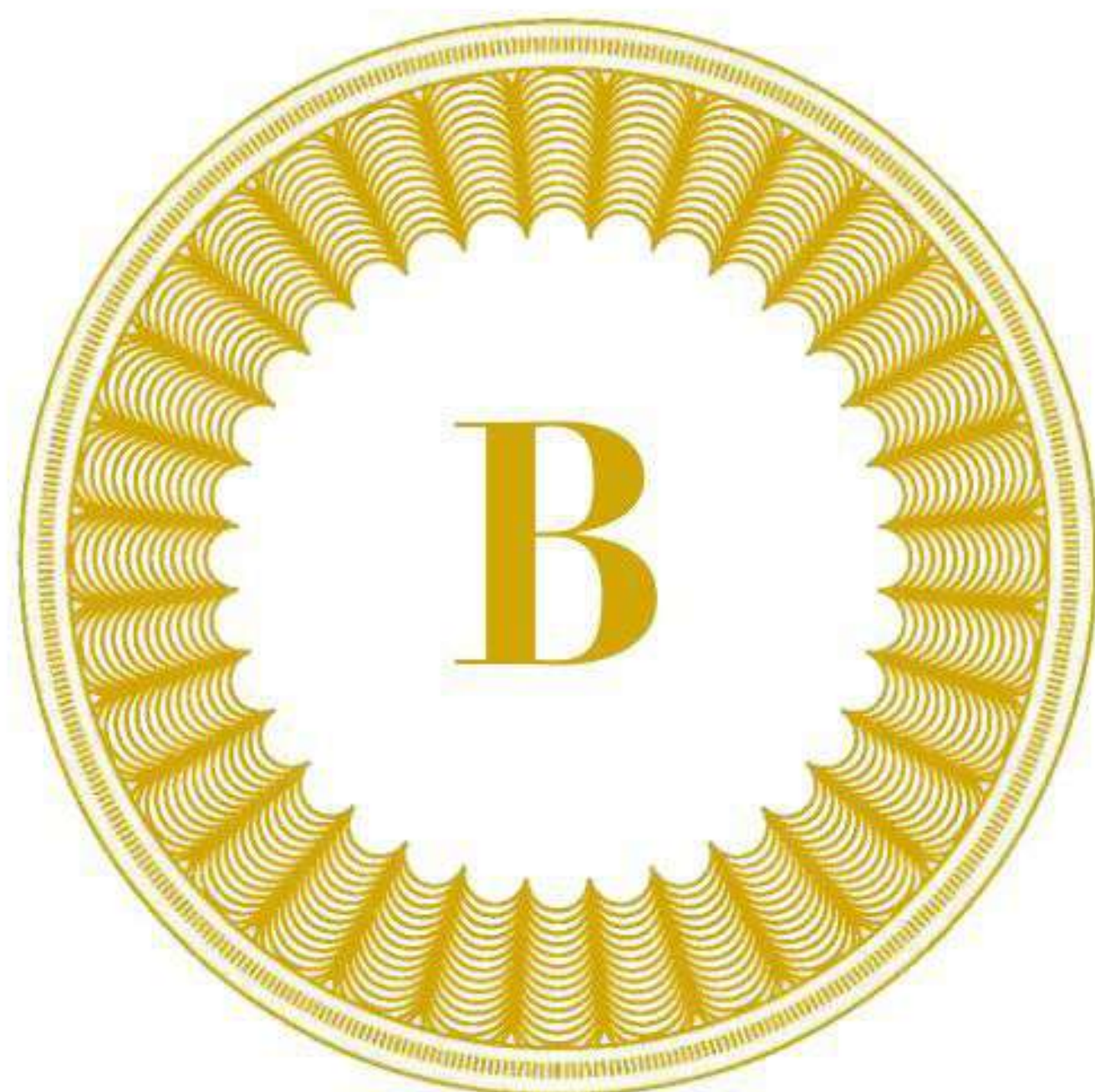
The day after Britain declared victory in Europe, Elizabeth reveled with London's East Enders, who had been devastated by the Blitz.

Her parents visited victims of the attacks despite the danger from unexploded bombs in the rubble.



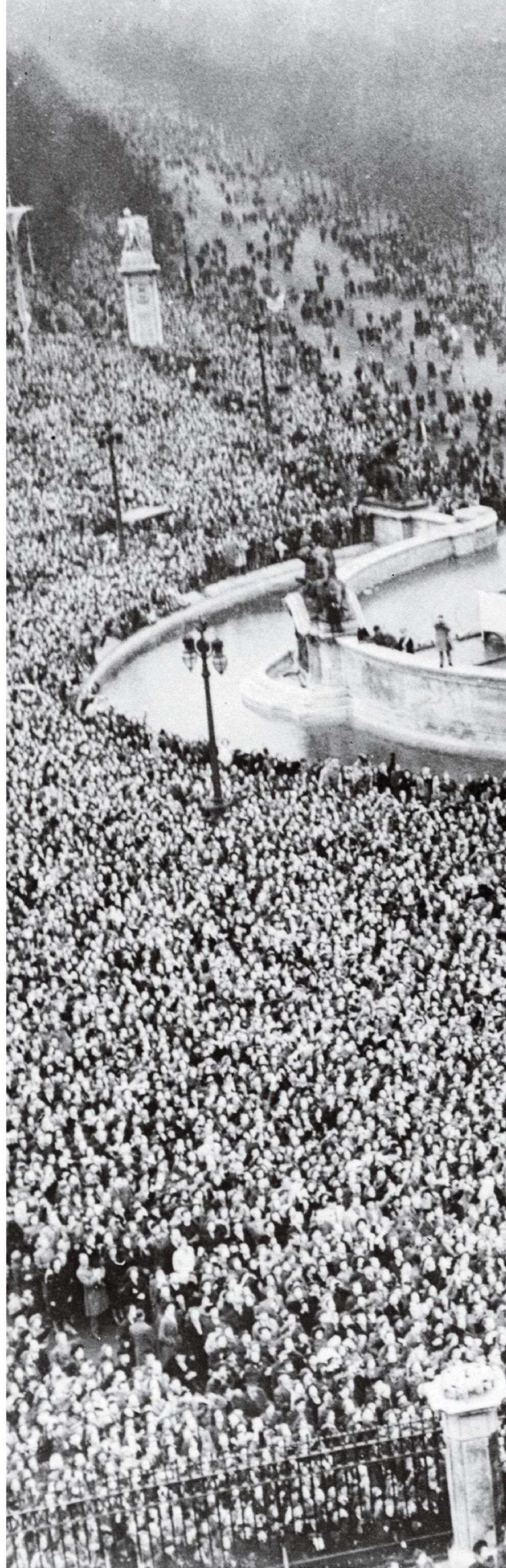
WEDDING OF THE CENTURY

ELIZABETH WAS JUST 13 WHEN SHE MET PHILIP MOUNTBATTEN, THE DASHING 18-YEAR-OLD NAVAL CADET WHO WOULD SOMEDAY BECOME HER HUSBAND



BRITAIN IN 1947 WAS STILL a war-weary nation, its cities strewn with rubble and food in short supply. But in the ninth winter of austerity, “the skies cleared for a brief moment,” wrote *Life* magazine, and “shining through came a fleeting, nostalgic glimpse of an ancient glory and a little pang of hope for better days to come.”

The wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Lt. Philip Mountbatten on Nov. 20th, 1947, brought joy to Britons and captivated the world. The romance had been kept largely secret from the public but took off during the holidays of 1943, when Philip, then a first lieutenant and second-in-command on HMS *Wallace*, accepted an invitation to spend Christmas at Windsor Castle. Elizabeth, by then 17, confided to her governess that he was “the one,” and the King’s private secretary observed that the couple “frisked and capered away til near 1 a.m.” He made a good impression, but as it became clear they were headed for marriage, some questioned whether the exiled Greek prince was





JOYFUL NOISE

Thousands of well-wishers gathered to cheer the newlyweds when they appeared on the palace balcony following their wedding. "There was delirium," said the *Times*.



BUDDING ROMANCE

At Lady Patricia Mountbatten's wedding, a loving gaze was the first public hint of a spark.

IT'S OFFICIAL

After months of hiding their affections, the happy couple announced their engagement on July 9. Before that, "Philip had to slip secretly through a side door of the palace or arrange clandestine rendezvous through his cousin the Duchess of Kent," said *Time*.



“

HE HAS QUITE
SIMPLY BEEN MY
STRENGTH AND STAY
ALL THESE YEARS,
AND I OWE HIM A
DEBT GREATER
THAN HE WOULD
EVER CLAIM”

— **THE QUEEN, SPEAKING OF
PHILIP ON THEIR GOLDEN
ANNIVERSARY, 1997**

an appropriate match for the future Queen of England. King George had issues with Philip, who had been reared as a commoner and had “washed dishes, fired boilers, even played on a skittles team organized by the owner of a local pub,” reported *Time*. But his daughter “saw in him a freshness. He’s very bright, he’s complex, and she knew he might not be easy, but he wouldn’t be boring,” biographer Sally Bedell Smith told *People*. The King relented, and on July 9, 1947, the palace announced an engagement that secretly had taken place six months prior.

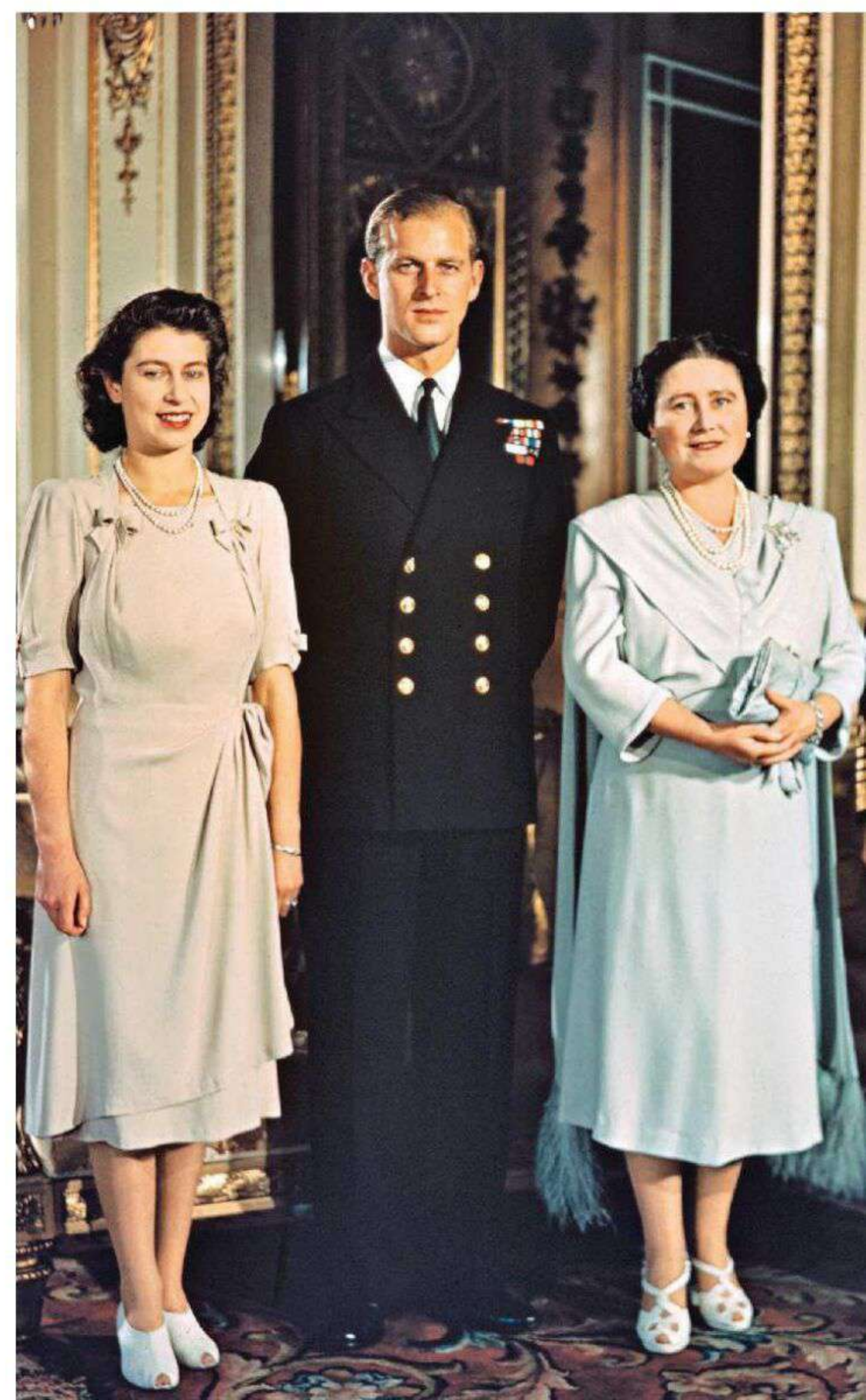
When the wedding day arrived, tens of thousands—some of whom had camped in the street overnight—lined the route to Westminster Abbey as Elizabeth and her father, King George VI, rode past in a gilded royal coach. Post-war austerity dictated that no public holiday be declared, and the parade was kept to the minimum one and a half miles. But the sight of the Household Cavalry with their plumed helmets brought cheers that could be heard inside the Abbey, where Philip, now styled the Duke of Edinburgh,



waited with more than 2,000 guests, including six kings and seven queens.

Elizabeth entered through the west door of the Abbey at 11:30 a.m. to a drumroll and a fanfare of trumpets, wearing an ivory satin and tulle gown with a 13-ft. train and encrusted with diamanté flowers and 10,000 seed pearls. “It was an entrance of drama and beauty that no Hollywood fantasia could equal,” wrote *The New York Times*. The crowning glory was Queen Mary’s diamond Fringe Tiara—though it had to be hastily repaired after it fell to pieces as Elizabeth was getting dressed for the wedding.

The King would later write to Elizabeth: “You were so calm and composed during the service and said your words with such conviction, that I knew everything was all right.” After the ceremony, it was off to Buckingham palace for a banquet of sole, partridge, ice cream and cake, cut with Philip’s sword. To mark the occasions, pubs were allowed to serve past their normal 10:30 p.m. close. “London is in a state of exaltation,” declared the *Times*. When Elizabeth and Philip left the palace courtyard for Waterloo Station and a three-week honeymoon, her parents and wedding guests ran behind and showered them with rose petals. The newlyweds were spotted with a rug over their laps and the Princess’s favorite corgi, Susan, snuggled underneath.





GRAND ARRIVAL

"She was radiant," Lady Pamela Hicks, one of eight bridesmaids at the wedding, said of Elizabeth (upper left). "She was very much in love," she told *People*.

PRE-NUP PORTRAIT

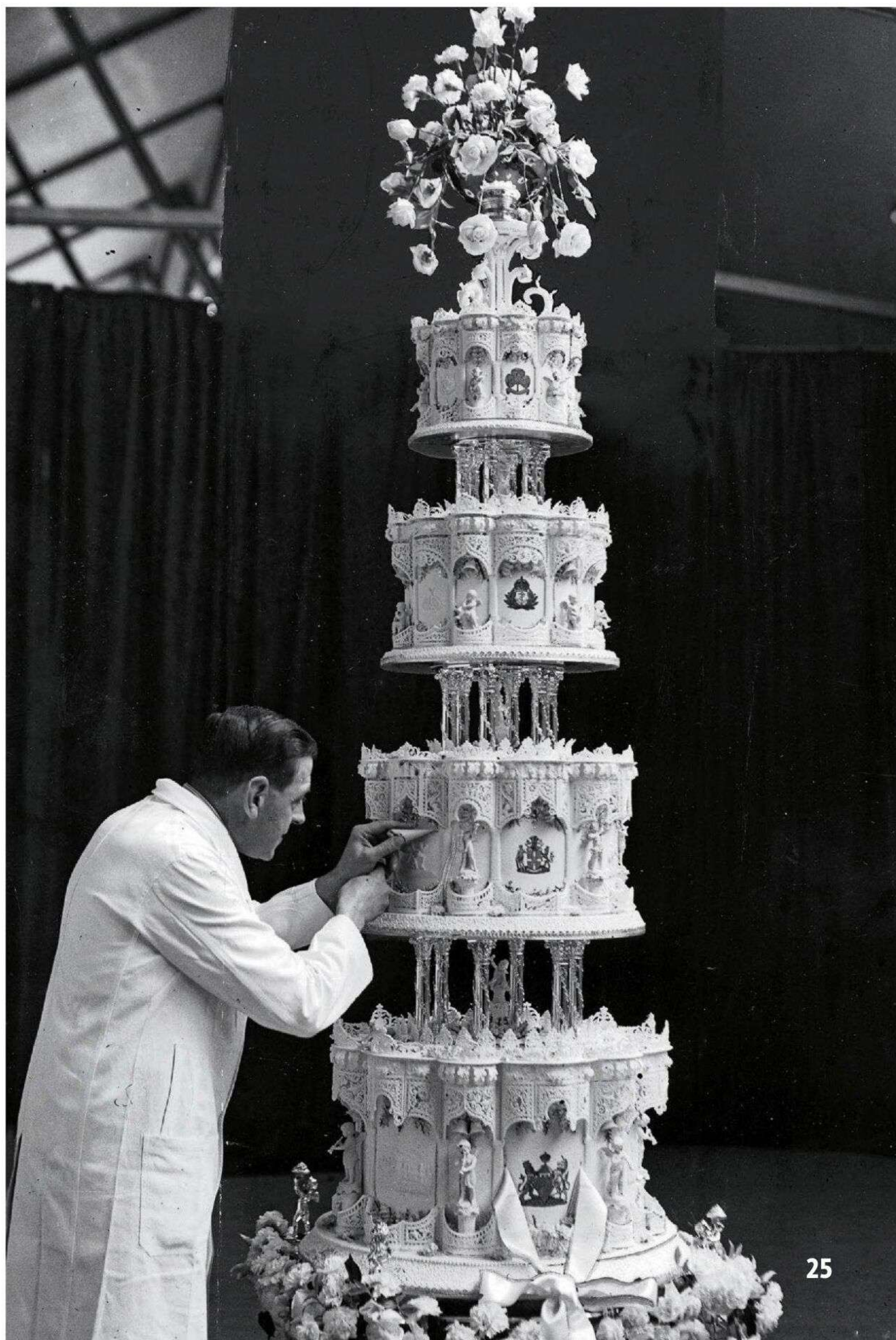
Philip posed with his in-laws-to-be (left) shortly before the wedding.

ROYAL PROCESSION

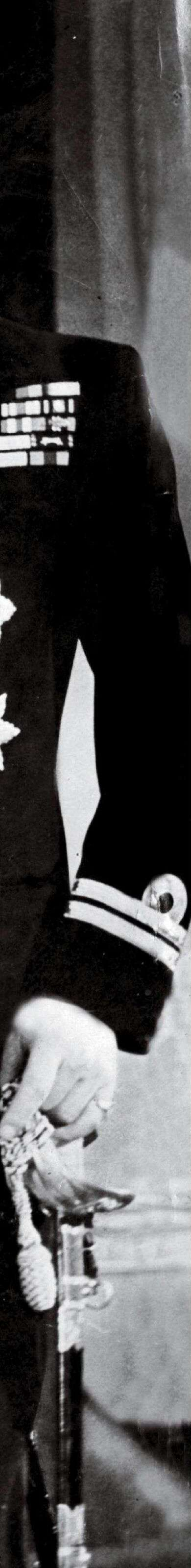
Elizabeth and Philip waved from the Irish Coach (above) as the wedding procession wended its way through the streets of London.

SHOWSTOPPER

The wedding cake (right) stood 9 ft. tall and weighed 500 lbs. It took three months and five and a half pints of rum, brandy and curacao to make the traditional fruitcake.







IN LOVE

Elizabeth, carrying a bouquet of white orchids, and the Prince in full ceremonial uniform looked relaxed and jubilant in their official wedding portrait. In a letter to his daughter, King George wrote: "I can see that you are sublimely happy with Philip."

SHOWERING OF GIFTS

The royal couple received more than 2,500 gifts from around the world. Among the more practical: an electric washing machine, a refrigerator, 76 handkerchiefs, 30 scarves, 148 pairs of stockings and 16 nightgowns—and an electric sewing machine (above) from the Scottish town of Clydebank.

WEDDING PARTY

Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh at Buckingham Palace with family including best man Marquess of Millford Haven (next to the bride), Elizabeth's grandmother Queen Mary (front left), Philip's mother, Princess Alice of Greece (front row, second from left); the bridesmaids Princess Margaret (right of Philip), Princess Alexandra of Kent, Lady Caroline, Montagu-Douglas-Scott, Lady Mary Cambridge, Lady Elizabeth Lambart, Lady Pamela Mountbatten (later Hicks), Margaret Elphinstone (later Rhodes), Miss Bowes-Lyon; King George VI, Queen Elizabeth (right front) and Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone (far right), the last surviving grandchild of Queen Victoria.





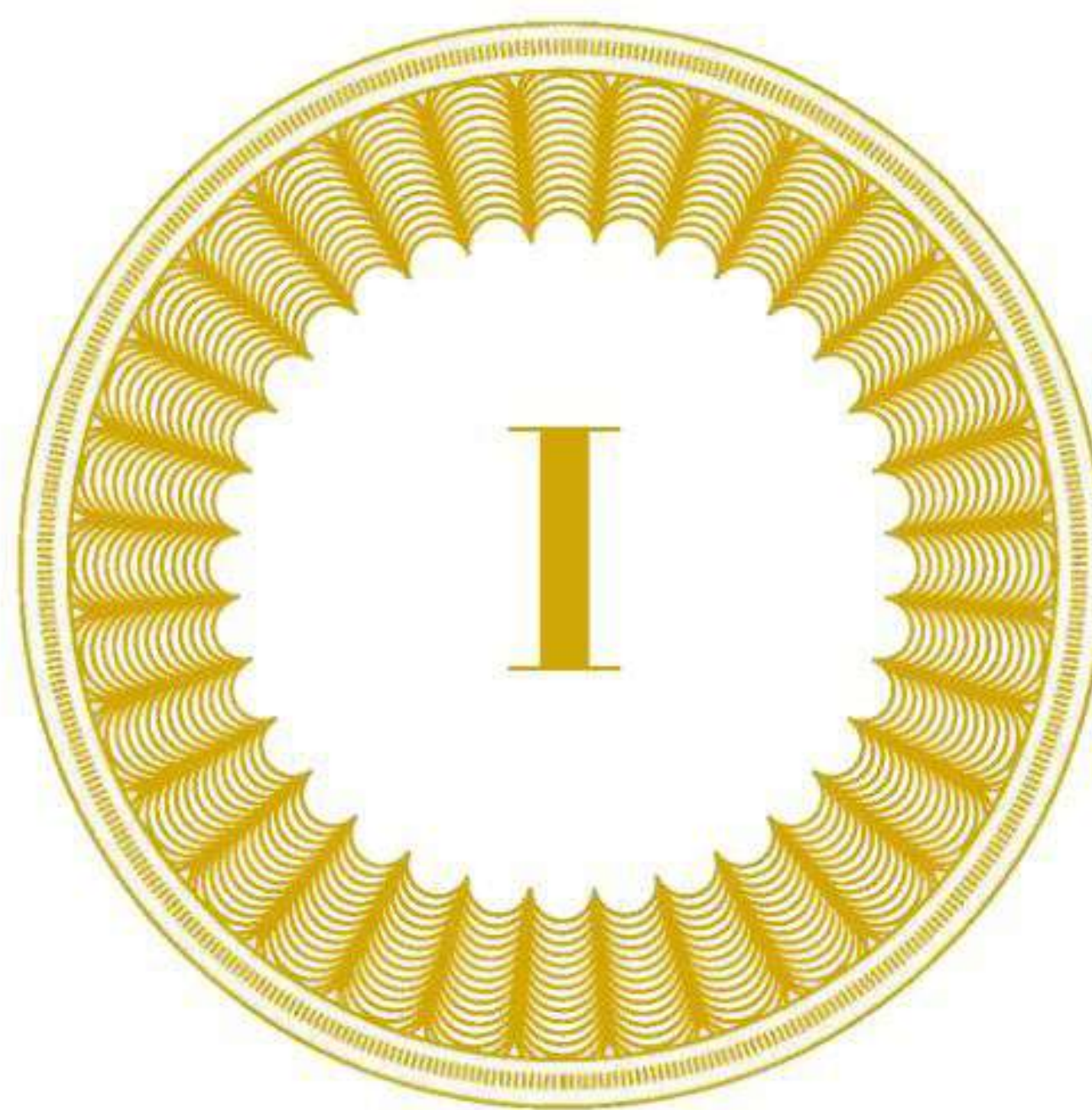


1948

A delighted Queen with her 1-month-old Prince Charles Philip Arthur George. He was born in a Buckingham Palace suite that was transformed into a temporary maternity ward.

A WIFE AND MOTHER

SHE HAD TWO TODDLERS WHEN SHE TOOK THE THRONE AND GAVE BIRTH TWICE WHILE REIGNING. FOLLOWING TRADITION, THE QUEEN OFTEN PUT DUTY BEFORE FAMILY



“I’M BLISSFULLY HAPPY,” ELIZABETH wrote to her cousin Margaret Rhodes during her honeymoon. “I’m enjoying being married to the best and nicest man in the world.” After the wedding the newlyweds relaxed at Broadlands, the 16th-century Hampshire estate owned by Philip’s uncle Lord Mountbatten, and at Balmoral, the royal retreat in Scotland. They tromped around the woods hunting deer, where, a carefree princess, wearing army boots and a leather vest, joked to Rhodes in a letter, “I couldn’t help wishing that a photographer would come along, just for once, as he would never have believed what he saw! I imagined that I looked like a female Russian commando leader followed by her faithful cut-throats, all armed to the teeth with rifles.”

Philip, too, was very much in love. “Cherish Lilibet? I wonder if that word is enough to express what is in me,” he wrote to his mother-in-law—though his rakish side was also on display. When a friend said of his wife, “I never realized what lovely skin she has,” the prince replied, “Yes, she’s like that all over!”

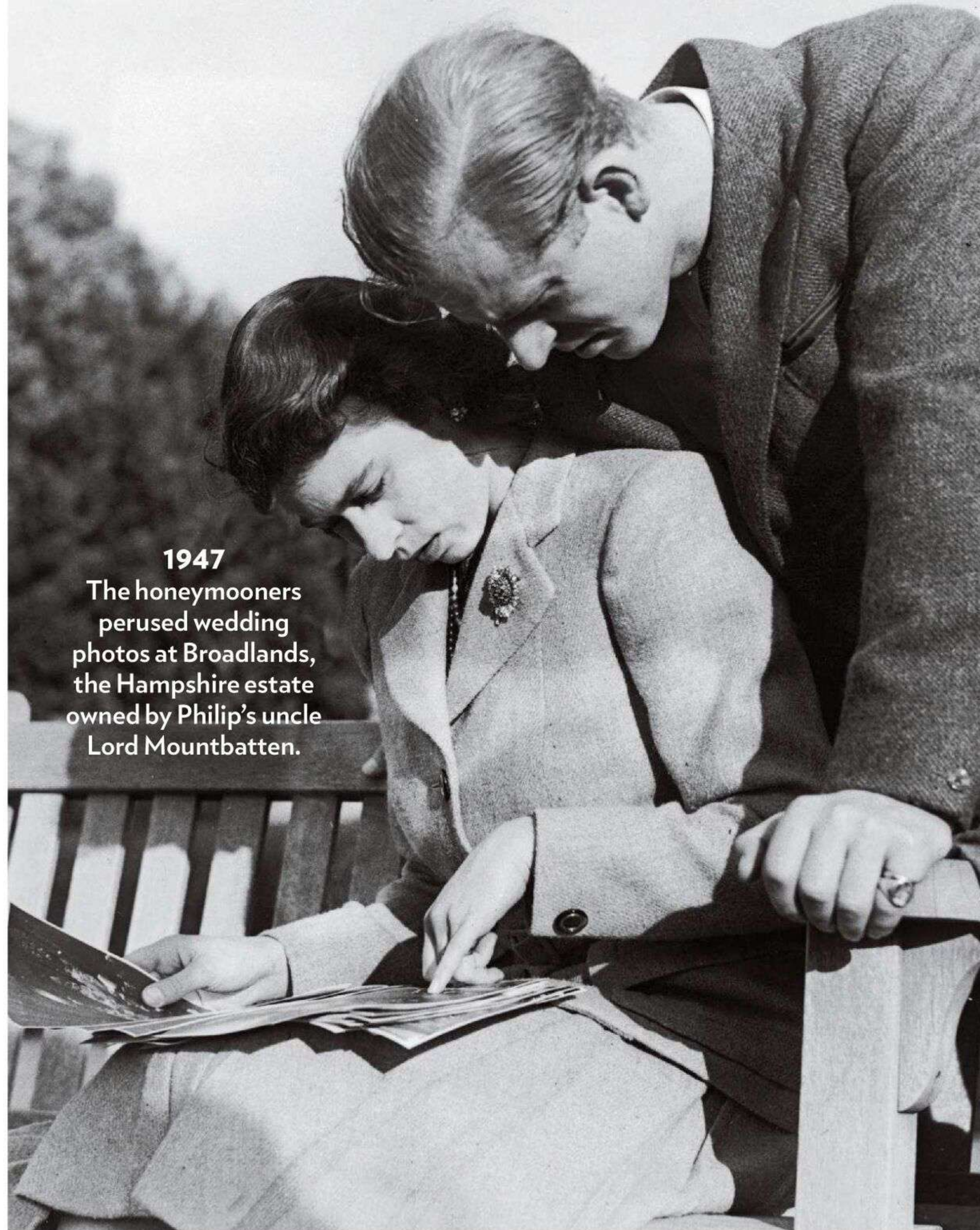
Within three months Elizabeth was pregnant and suffering morning sickness, but their social life continued to be a whirl of races, restaurants and nightclubs. For a costume party at the Duchess of Kent’s home, she dressed “in black lace, with a large comb and mantilla, as an Infanta [a Spanish princess],” wrote diarist Chips Channon, and “danced every dance until nearly 5 a.m.”

HRH Prince Charles Philip Arthur George was born on Nov. 14, 1948, at home on the second floor of Buckingham Palace. Philip had been playing squash and, still dressed in sneakers and sports clothes, arrived to cheers from the waiting crowd, then gave his wife a bouquet and a kiss. Two weeks later the excited new mother wrote to her cousin Lady Mary Cambridge, “I had no idea that one could be kept so busy in bed—there seems to be something happening all the time!”

When Philip resumed his naval career in the fall of 1949 as first lieutenant aboard the destroyer HMS *Chequers* based in Malta, Elizabeth made it clear that she would join him. For the next two years she divided her time between London and a hilltop villa on the island while Prince Charles remained at Clarence House in the care of his nanny and doting grandparents.

So began what she would later call the happiest years of her life. Elizabeth's days were occupied with ordinary pleasures—driving alone, going to the hairdresser and shops, handling cash for the first time. “It was the only place that she was able to live the life of a naval officer's wife, just like all the other wives,” Lady Pamela Hicks, the Queen's lady-in-waiting, told London's *Daily Mail*. Inheriting the throne felt a long way off.

On Aug. 15, 1950, she gave birth to

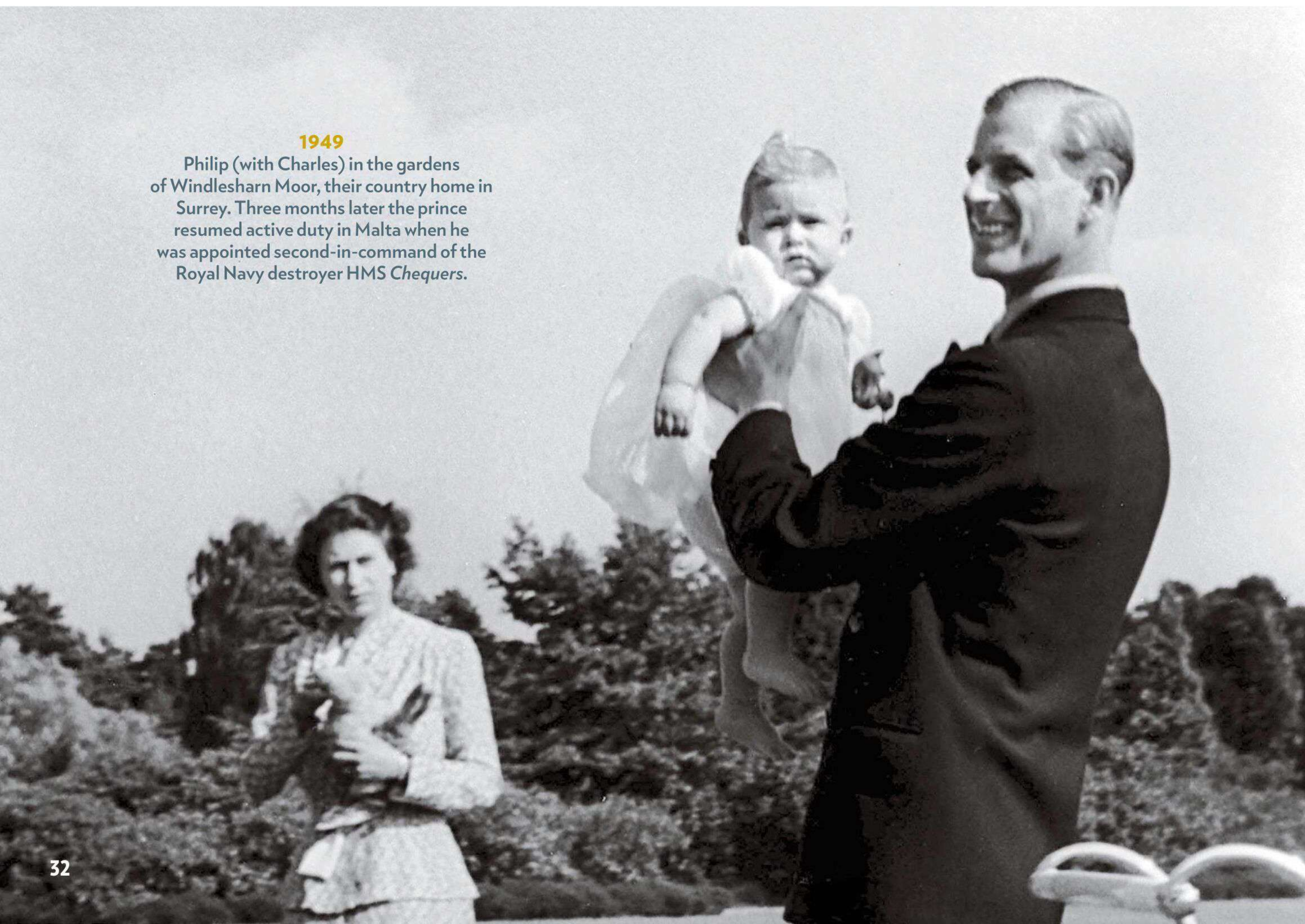


1947

The honeymooners perused wedding photos at Broadlands, the Hampshire estate owned by Philip's uncle Lord Mountbatten.

1949

Philip (with Charles) in the gardens of Windlesharn Moor, their country home in Surrey. Three months later the prince resumed active duty in Malta when he was appointed second-in-command of the Royal Navy destroyer HMS *Chequers*.



“

I ONLY HOPE THAT I CAN
BRING UP MY CHILDREN
IN THE HAPPY ATMOSPHERE
OF LOVE AND FAIRNESS
WHICH MARGARET AND
I HAVE GROWN UP IN”

—PRINCESS ELIZABETH, IN A LETTER
TO HER PARENTS, 1948

1950

On Aug. 15 Princess
Anne was born at
Clarence House.
Three months later
Elizabeth returned to
Malta without her.



1950

Four generations of Windsors gathered for Princess Anne's christening. From left: Princess Elizabeth holding her daughter, Queen Elizabeth, Prince Charles and Queen Mary.



Princess Anne Elizabeth Alice Louise at Clarence House. Elizabeth nursed the new baby until November, then returned to Malta, leaving Charles and Anne to be with their grandparents for Christmas. Spending months without her children was hardly unprecedented in royal history—when she was 8 months old, her own parents left for a six-month tour. But it was an early signal that Elizabeth would inevitably, and at times controversially, put duty before her family.

Their idyllic Malta days ended when her father's health sharply declined. Diagnosed with lung cancer in September 1951, he survived the removal of his left lung. When Elizabeth and Philip left for a tour of Canada the next month, their luggage contained mourning clothes and accession papers that would be needed if he died.

Three months later they assumed the King's place on a planned 30,000-mile tour to Australia and New Zealand, via East Africa. The King, looking wan and fragile, saw them off at the airport on Jan. 31, 1952. It would be the last time Elizabeth saw her father alive. Six days later, at age 56, he died in his sleep.

“

MY FATHER DIED MUCH TOO YOUNG. IT WAS ALL A VERY SUDDEN KIND OF TAKING ON AND MAKING THE BEST YOU CAN”

—ELIZABETH ON HER FIRST DAY AS QUEEN

1952

Practicing their royal wave with Mum, Charles, almost 4, and Anne, 2, greeted the crowds at Buckingham Palace after the State Opening of Parliament.

1952

A grieving Elizabeth, now Queen of England, arrived in London on Feb. 7 after a 19-hour trip from Kenya, where she learned of her father's death. Waiting on the tarmac was a small delegation led by Prime Minister Winston Churchill.





LONG LIVE THE QUEEN

WHEN THE 25-YEAR-OLD
MONARCH WAS CORONATED IN
1953, THE WORLD GOT ITS
FIRST TELEVISED LOOK AT AN
ANCIENT CEREMONY FILLED WITH
RITUAL AND PAGEANTRY

FULL REGALIA

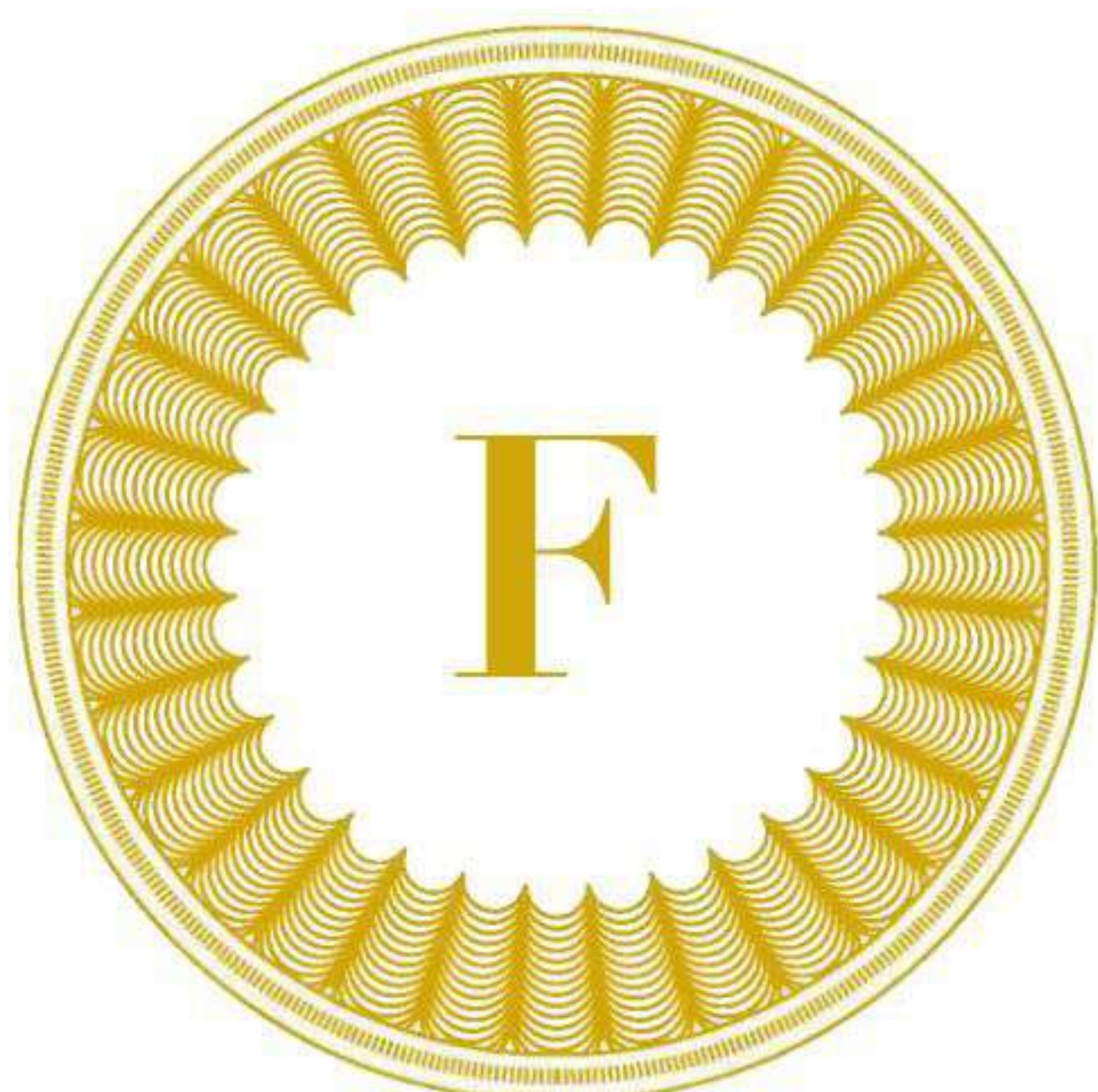
The newly crowned Queen with her crown, orb and scepter, which she received during the almost-three-hour coronation.



“

IF THEY SCOURED
THE GLOBE,
THEY COULD NOT
HAVE FOUND ANYONE
SO SUITED TO
THE PART”

—WINSTON CHURCHILL, 1953



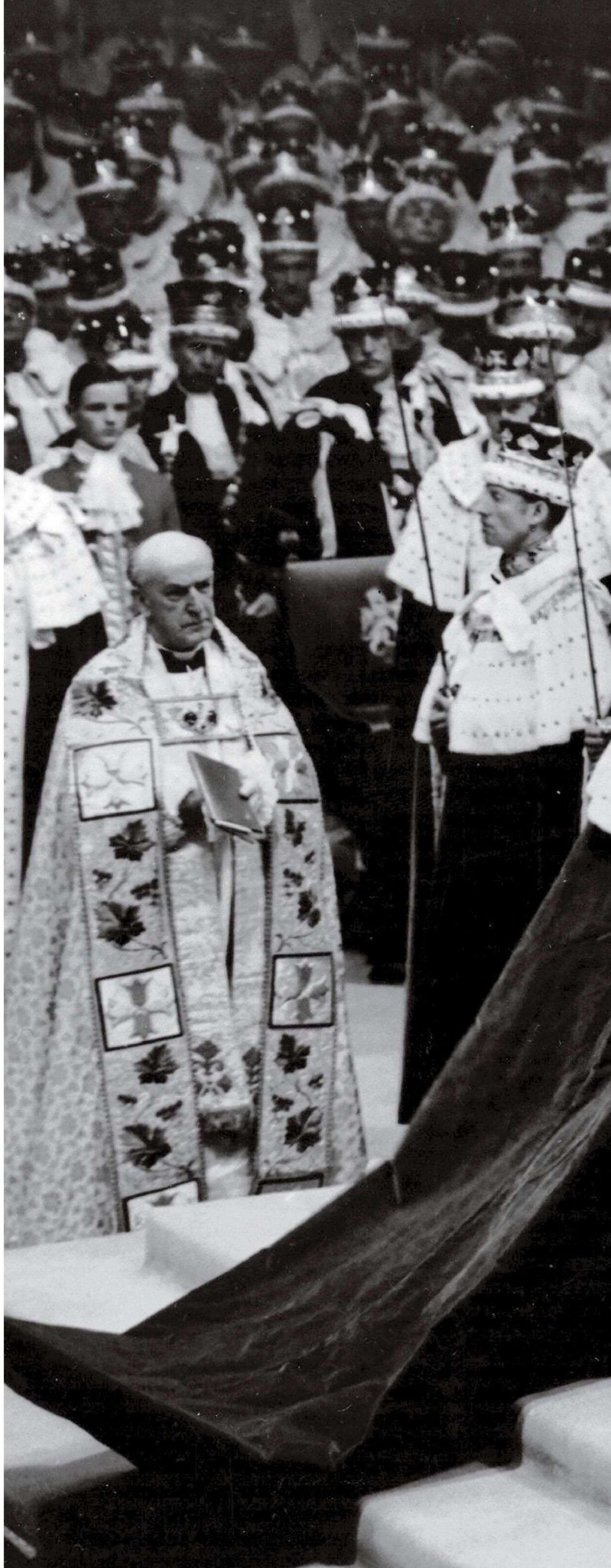
FROM THE BRANCHES OF the Treetops Hotel in the Royal Aberdare Game Reserve in Kenya, Princess Elizabeth, 25, was in high spirits as she filmed a herd of elephants gathering by a water hole with her movie camera. The royal couple had planned a romantic stopover before a months-long diplomatic tour of Australia and New Zealand. The next morning, Feb. 6, she tossed bananas to the baboons gathered below. “She kept talking about how she was going to write to her parents and describe it all,” said Lady Pamela Hicks, the princess’s lady-in-waiting. What Elizabeth could not yet have known was that her father, King George VI, had died in his sleep and that she was now the Queen of England.

The news didn’t reach her until hours later at Sagana, a fishing lodge given to her as a wedding



THE ROYAL BOX

The Queen Mother (left) with daughter Princess Margaret (right), 22, and a less-than-thrilled Prince Charles, 4, at his mother’s coronation.





PAYING HOMAGE
The Duke of Edinburgh knelt before his Queen—and wife. After pledging to become “your liege man of life and limb,” he stood and kissed her left cheek.

present by the Kenyan government. Philip, who'd been told first, took his wife "up to the garden," said his equerry Michael Parker, "and they walked slowly up and down the lawn while he talked and talked and talked to her." Shocked but in full command, Elizabeth was concerned first for others on the trip. "I am sorry that it means we've got to go back to England and it's upsetting everyone's plans," she said, according to Lady Hicks. It took 19 hours to get home, and when they landed and saw "[Prime Minister] Winston Churchill and others drawn up on the tarmac, there was this sudden realization that this was the end of her private life."

Her father's funeral took place on Feb. 15. Elizabeth was fully empowered to be the sovereign, but her coronation would not take place for 16 months, out of respect for the King's memory and because of the meticulous preparation required for the processions and nearly three-hour ceremony. Elizabeth practiced in the Buckingham Palace ballroom using sheets as a stand-in for her 60-ft. train while wearing the formidable St. Edward's Crown, 4 lbs. 12 oz. of gold. By the time June 2 came around, anticipation had reached a fever pitch. The date was chosen by meteorologists to be the most likely for good weather, but it turned out to be cold and rainy. That was no deterrent for the throngs of subjects who lined the soggy processional route. The Queen and Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, rode to Westminster Abbey in the Gold State Coach, pulled by eight gray geldings and accompanied by the resplendent Household Calvary. More than 8,000 guests from 129 countries were in attendance at the ceremony.

Also in attendance, for the first time, were television cameras. The Queen initially resisted, concerned that a gaffe would be seen around the world, but the prospect of a truly public coronation swayed her. As a result, 27 million Brits gathered around tiny black-and-white sets, many bought especially for the occasion. In North America 100 million more watched the event, recorded for evening programs. It was, *The New York Times* proclaimed, "the birth of international television."

The four-and-a-half-mile return route to Buckingham Palace was designed to give the crowds the best possible chance to see their new Queen (who was wearing the Imperial State Crown, her third of the day) and her royal procession. Once back at the palace, she and her family greeted cheering crowds on the balcony, their sixth and final appearance coming at midnight as the night skies were ablaze with fireworks.





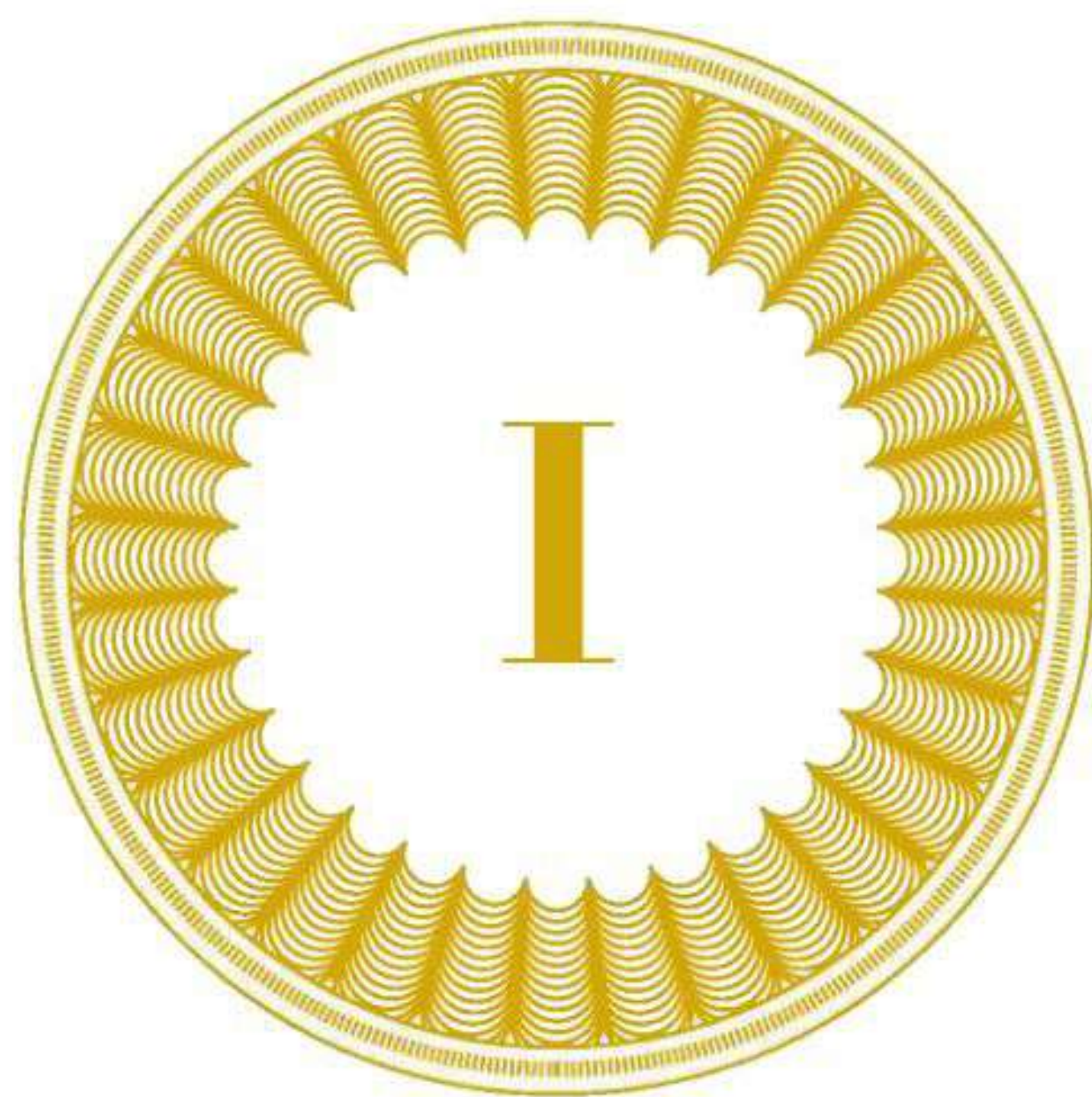
AFTERPARTY

With Philip in the Gold State Coach (opposite), a jubilant Queen joined celebrants in the procession through London (below). Many, including Paul McCartney, vividly recall the day. "It was a thrilling time," the Beatle once said. "I grew up with the Queen, thinking she was a babe. She was beautiful and glamorous." Left: A program with the family coat of arms. Above: A children's street party in London's East End, one of thousands held across the global realm. Atop Mount Everest, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay, members of a British team (the first to summit), toasted the news with brandy.



THE SILVER YEARS

IN THE FIRST QUARTER CENTURY OF HER REIGN, ELIZABETH EVOLVED FROM A YOUNG QUEEN LEARNING THE ROPES TO BRITAIN'S PREMIER AMBASSADOR TO THE WORLD. WHILE AT HOME, SHE WAS MUM TO FOUR



IN A RADIO BROADCAST ON HER 21ST BIRTHDAY, Elizabeth declared to her future subjects that her “whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service.” That profound sense of duty was her ballast in her first years on the throne, when she was determined to prove herself. “She was a professional almost instantly, working in a world of men,” said Sally Bedell Smith, author of *Elizabeth the Queen*. She was also a working mother, unique in her aristocratic circles, and without models for balancing her job with family life.

Elizabeth’s first challenge came soon after the coronation, when her sister Margaret wanted to marry their father’s former equerry Group Capt. Peter Townsend, a commoner and just-divorced father of two. As monarch, Elizabeth needed to give her permission for Margaret (then third in line for the throne) to marry. Because the Church of England, of which the Queen was head, disapproved of remarriage for divorcées, Elizabeth could not publicly support the match. Margaret, offered the option to wed Townsend if she gave up her title and royal allowance, eventually broke off the relationship.

When she turned to the business of being queen, Elizabeth flourished. In November 1953 she and Philip embarked on a five-and-a-half-month, 43,000-mile Commonwealth tour that marked the first time a British monarch circled the globe. At every stop, including Jamaica, Uganda, Libya, New Zealand and Fiji, they were greeted by enthusiastic crowds—and an estimated 75 percent of Australia turned out to see her during their 58-day stopover. The Queen, reserved by nature (“The trouble is that, unlike my mother, I don’t have a naturally smiley face,” she once remarked), soon mastered the art of chatting and smiling for hours on end as she met colonial administrators, attended garden parties and sat through lengthy traditional dances. In a Christmas speech broadcast from New



1965
Waving from the steps of
Windsor Castle were
the Queen, Philip and the
clan: Edward, 11 months,
Andrew, 5, Anne, 14,
and Charles, 16.





1960

Taking third-born Andrew for a spin at Balmoral while Anne, then 10, looked on. Elizabeth became the first British monarch to give birth during her reign since Queen Victoria a century before her.

Zealand, she reinforced her dedication to the Commonwealth—an association of countries once part of the British Empire—and called her role “not merely an abstract symbol of our unity but a personal and living bond between you and me.”

Her bond with her children, however, was more tenuous. Prince Charles, 5, and Princess Anne, 3, stayed behind, just as a young Elizabeth had when her parents toured. The Queen talked with them on radiotelephone and received frequent updates from her mother: “You may find Charles much older in a very endearing way,” said one letter. “He is intensely affectionate & loves you & Philip most tenderly.” Toward the end of the tour the children were reunited with their parents on the newly commissioned royal yacht *Britannia*. After five months’ separation, Elizabeth observed protocol by greeting diplomats first, then extending a gloved hand for her son to shake.

But as home movies and photographs attest, Elizabeth was also a doting mother, eager to show her children to the world. “They are not arms out and cuddly people, really,” her cousin Margaret



1965

In the 12 years between Charles’s and Andrew’s births, the Queen (with Andrew, 5, and Edward, 1) gained a great deal of confidence as a monarch and was able to be a more hands-on mum for her young children.

1965

When her youngest son, Edward, was born, Elizabeth (with Charles and Andrew) was almost 38 and had been on the throne for 11 years.



1969

Royal Family, a documentary giving the public an unprecedented look inside a private world, was aired. The Queen (with the Windsor clan at Sandringham House) regretted her decision to participate and withdrew the film from public view.

Rhodes told *The Daily Mail* in 2016. “They are not lovey-dovey. But they mind a lot about each other, even if they don’t show it. The thing is, they’ve been brought up not to show publicly what they’re feeling.” Added the Queen’s daughter Anne: “I don’t believe that any of us, for a second, thought she didn’t care for us in exactly the same way as any other mother did.”

After a hiatus of almost a decade, Elizabeth, 33, became a mother again with the birth of her second son, Andrew, on Feb. 19, 1960, with Edward to follow four years later. Right after Andrew’s birth, she sent a note to her cousin Lady Mary Cambridge. “The baby is adorable,” she wrote. “All in all, he’s going to be terribly spoilt by all of us, I’m sure.” The Queen spent much more time with her youngest children and, according to historian Robert Lacey, happily got up in the middle of the night to settle them back to sleep.

As the turbulent ’60s progressed, more people questioned the purpose of the monarchy, and Buckingham Palace grew concerned about a growing gap between the Queen and her subjects. Prince Philip, instrumental in having the coronation televised, wanted the public to have a more intimate view of the family. “If people see [heads of state] as individuals, as people,” he said, “I think it makes it much easier for them to accept the system.” For the first time, cameras would be allowed to follow the Windsors in their daily lives. The result

“

UNTIL WE MADE THIS FILM, I REALLY BELIEVE THAT NONE OF THEM HAD EVER SPOKEN INTO A MICROPHONE ANYTHING WHICH HAD NOT BEEN CAREFULLY PREPARED”

—RICHARD CAWSTON,
PRODUCER OF
THE ROYAL FAMILY
DOCUMENTARY



1969

Charles formally became the Queen's successor at his investiture as Prince of Wales. More than 500 million watched the ceremony on television.

THE SILVER YEARS

1973

Princess Anne and Capt. Mark Phillips looked delighted on the Buckingham Palace balcony after their wedding, but their union was not to last. In 1992 Anne divorced and remarried Sir Timothy Laurence.

1977

The Queen with daughter Anne and her first grandchild, Peter Phillips. Wanting a lower-key life, Anne was the first royal since 1504 to refuse titles for her husband and two children. (Daughter Zara was born in 1981.)



UNCLE DAVID

HE SHOOK UP THE MONARCHY'S LINE OF SUCCESSION, BUT ELIZABETH ALWAYS HAD A SOFT SPOT FOR HER WAYWARD UNCLE

Elizabeth would not have been queen if it weren't for her impetuous Uncle David, who gave up the throne 10 months after he became Edward VIII to marry the twice-divorced American socialite Wallis Simpson. Despite the tumult he caused, Elizabeth was fond of her uncle. "Unlike her mother and grandmother, who could only remember how he let the family down, Elizabeth remembered the positive things," says British historian Robert Lacey.

After the abdication, Edward and Wallis—given the titles Duke and Duchess of Windsor—lived in exile, where they embarked on an aimless life notable for its free spending. Excluded from Elizabeth's wedding and coronation, Edward seethed about his family and was especially bitter that his wife was denied a "Her Royal Highness" title.

But tensions eased as the years wore on, and Queen Elizabeth visited her ailing uncle in Paris shortly before he died. His 1972 funeral was held in England, and Wallis was at last invited to stay at Buckingham Palace. After her 1986 funeral, attended by the Queen and Prince Philip, she was buried alongside her husband in the Royal Burial Ground near Windsor Castle.



1972

The Queen, the Duchess of Windsor and the Queen Mother leaving St. George's Chapel at Windsor after the funeral of the Duke of Windsor.

1933

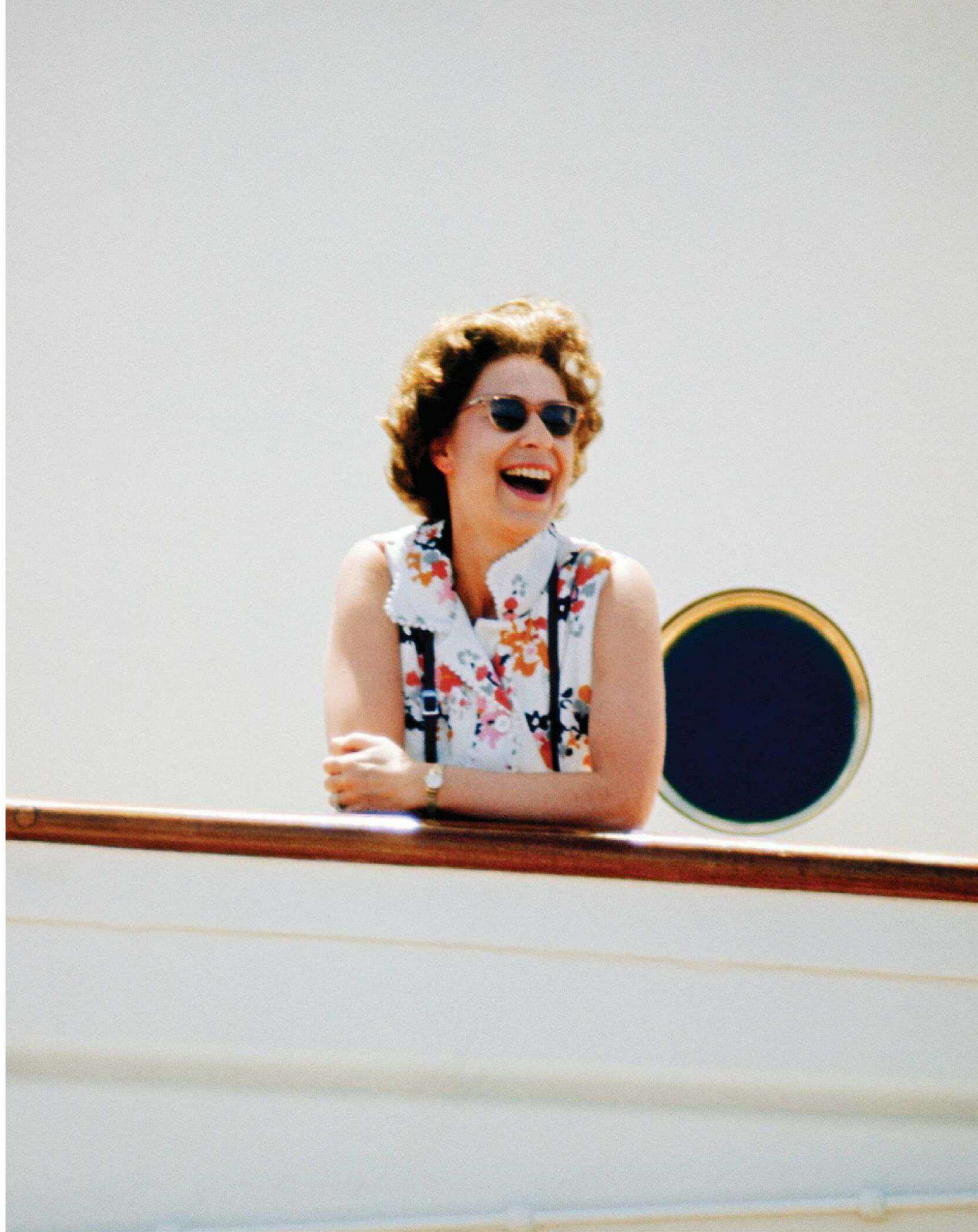
Though once close, David (returning with his niece from church at Balmoral) later derided Elizabeth, her mother and his own mother, Queen Mary, when his personal allowance was cut off.

1972

Happy aboard the royal yacht *Britannia*, a favorite place for the Queen to relax. One of the only times she shed a tear in public was when it was decommissioned in 1997 after 43 years of service.

1972

Every day except Christmas and Easter, whether at home or abroad, the Queen tended to her famous red-leather “despatch boxes” of confidential government documents.



“

A GREAT MANY OF US HAD NEVER SEEN HER IN THE ROLE OF MOTHER. TO THINK! SHE DOES THE SAME THINGS, ENJOYS THE SAME THINGS THAT WE DO!”

—A VIEWER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY DOCUMENTARY

was the 1969 documentary *Royal Family*, which showed the Queen washing dishes, driving a Land Rover and laughing with her children at a TV sitcom. Though she later pulled the program from public view—concerned that it was too compromising of the royal mystique—it was a big hit with viewers. Over 400 million watched from 130 countries, generating enormous goodwill for the crown.

The Queen returned the compliment many times over as Britain's greatest ambassador. Throughout her reign she made more than 270 trips to 128 countries and logged enough travel miles for 42 circuits around the world. Among her memorable tours was a 1961 state visit to India and Pakistan, where she and Philip were feted by nearly 3 million at the Republican Day Parade

and the Queen gave the royal wave on top of a lavishly decorated, 13-ft.-tall elephant. In Ghana that same year, she watched serenely as muscular, nearly nude warriors performed the End of Harvest dance. As Britain's head of state, she mingled with a cavalcade of politicians, celebrities and ordinary folk, but several of her trips had serious diplomatic overtones (though she always maintained political neutrality). An 11-day tour of West Germany in 1965—20 years after the end of World War II—was credited for helping to thaw relations between the two countries. West German chancellor Ludwig Erhard called the royal visit “the ultimate reconciliation which both our nations have sought.”

Elizabeth and Philip made six official visits to

1971

The Queen at Balmoral Castle in Scotland during her family's summer holiday. “She is a country person at heart,” said cousin Margaret Rhodes.





1961

Rose and marigold petals were tossed as the Queen and Pakistani president Ayub Khan rode through Karachi.



1970

Wearing a traditional cloak of brown kiwi feathers, the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh received a New Zealand Māori welcome during their royal tour.

the United States, the first in 1957 as guests of President Eisenhower, with whom the Queen had an affectionate relationship that dated back to World War II, when he was in London as Supreme Allied Commander. (They met every subsequent President except Lyndon Johnson.) America was fascinated by the 31-year-old Queen, and millions came out to cheer her motorcade in the nation's capital and at a rousing Manhattan ticker-tape parade. For her 1976 trip in honor of America's Bicentennial, the Queen showed off her legendary stamina during a nonstop six days in blistering temperatures. "Luckily," she cheerfully explained, "I don't mind the heat," as everyone around her sweltered.

When she wasn't on the road, the Queen loved nothing more than being in the countryside. Weekends were often spent at the 900-year-old Windsor Castle, where she lived as a teenager during the war, or at Sandringham in Norfolk, with its beautiful gardens and proximity to grandson William and his family. During the summer the Windsor clan gathered at the 50,000-acre Scottish estate Balmoral, where the Queen put on her wellies for daily walks with her corgis on the moors. "She is a



1961

A Ghanaian soldier sheltered the Queen and President Kwame Nkrumah. She insisted on the trip despite a spate of bombings, saying, "I am paid to face any risks that may be involved."



1961

President John Kennedy and wife Jackie during a visit to Buckingham Palace. Eight years before, the First Lady, then Jacqueline Bouvier, wrote about the Queen's coronation for the *Washington Times-Herald*.

1956

Greeting Marilyn Monroe at the premiere of a British war film, *The Battle of the River Plate*, in London. Both women were 30 years old when they met.





1970
The Queen with President Richard Nixon, his wife, Patricia, and Prime Minister Edward Heath. She first met the then-vice president in 1957, when she was 31 years old.

“

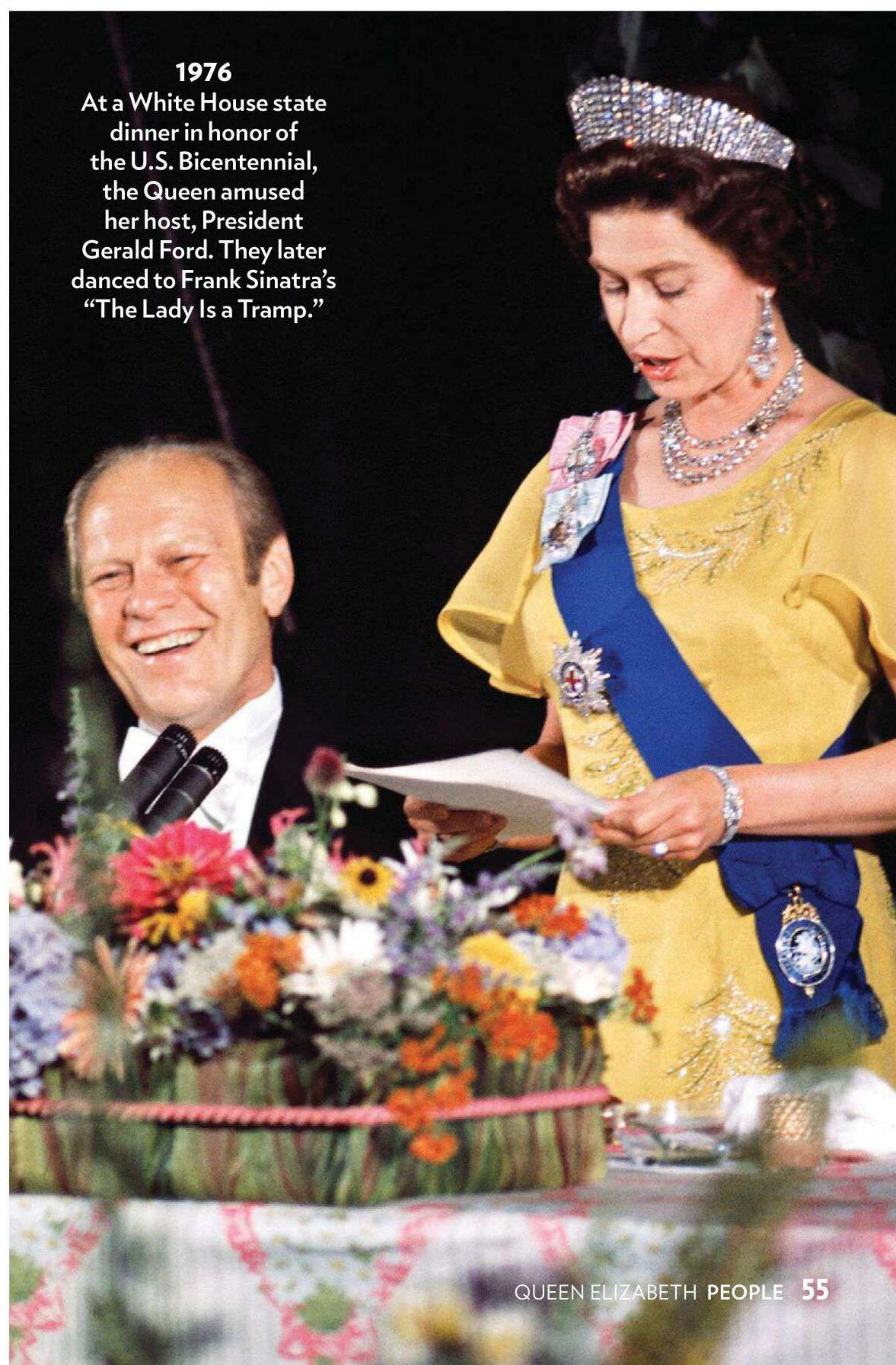
I HAVE TO
BE SEEN TO BE
BELIEVED”

—THE QUEEN ON
REFUSING INCREASED
SECURITY DURING
HER TRAVELS

country person,” her cousin Margaret Rhodes once told *People*, “and if she had not been who she was she would be living in the country with horses and lots of dogs.” Those would be Pembroke Welsh corgis, the breed she adored ever since she was a little girl.

Wherever she landed, the Queen always stuck to predictable routines: breakfast of tea and cereal with her husband, poring over the “red boxes” of government papers she received daily (though she had no veto power, she approved all legislation), then tea at 5 p.m., with scones set aside for the dogs. She sipped a Dubonnet-and-gin before dinner and afterward retired to watch TV (she loved English comedy shows) or work on jigsaw puzzles.

The Queen’s Silver Jubilee in 1977, celebrating her 25 years on the throne, could not have come at a more fraught time for the nation. Inflation and unemployment were sky-high, and Britain was close to bankruptcy. The Sex Pistols’ punk anthem “God Save the Queen” reached No. 2 on the British singles charts with its antimonarchy rant “She ain’t no human being / And there’s no future / And England’s dreaming.” The Queen herself doubted that there was much to celebrate and wondered if the festivities should be kept very low-key. But, to everyone’s surprise, the nation rallied spectacularly. On June 7, as she and Philip rode in a procession to St. Paul’s Cathedral, spectators lined the streets six deep, many sporting buttons saying “Liz Rules OK!” As the royal family looked down from



1976
At a White House state dinner in honor of the U.S. Bicentennial, the Queen amused her host, President Gerald Ford. They later danced to Frank Sinatra’s “The Lady Is a Tramp.”



the palace balcony onto the tumultuous crowds, the Queen looked “totally bewildered and overwhelmed by this huge flood of affection directed towards her,” said the Duchess of Kent. That included more than 12,000 parties organized by local communities, where, one celebrant reported, “Rule Britannia” was sung “at the top of their voices—and, what was so odd, really meaning it! I have never heard people sing with such fervor since the end of the war.”

In one of the Jubilee’s more poignant moments, the Queen renewed her promise of lifelong service that she had made in her 21st Birthday Address, three decades before. “Although that vow was made in my salad days, when I was green in judgment,” she said in a speech following a Service of Thanksgiving, “I do not regret or retract one word of it.”



1977
The Queen on a “walkabout” in London to meet her subjects during her Silver Jubilee.



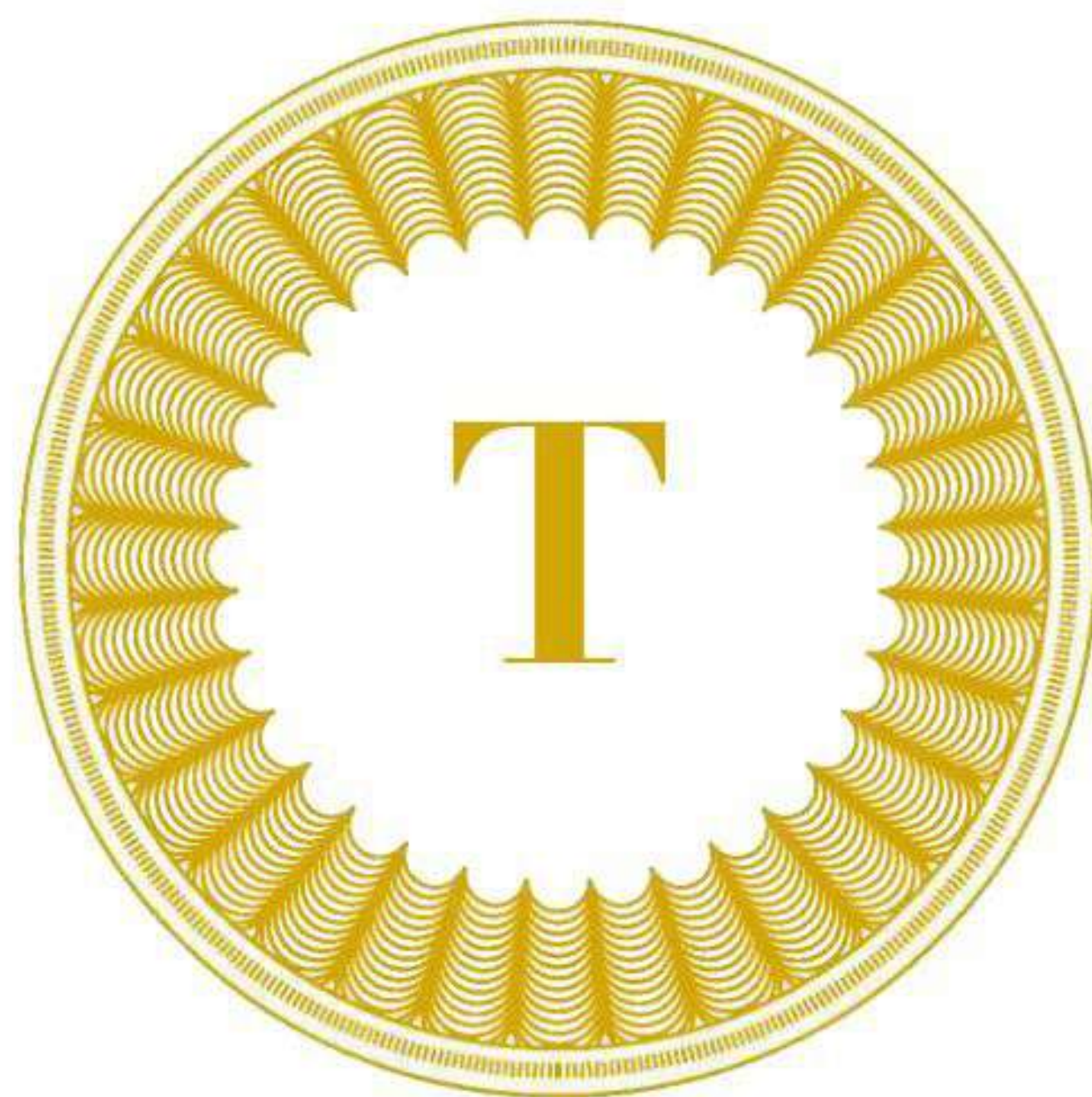
1977
Her Majesty on the occasion of her 25 years on the throne, wearing the Imperial State Crown, made of over 3,000 gems including the second-largest clear-cut diamond in the world.

1977
The country was suffering political and economic turmoil, but Elizabeth remained widely admired. Above right: Londoners under a string of banners paid tribute to Queen “Betty.”

1977
A boy (left) in Greenwich graced Elizabeth with a flower as part of the Jubilee festivities. That evening she rode in a procession of lighted carriages to Buckingham Palace.

THE GOLDEN YEARS

WHEN SCANDALS THREATENED TO TARNISH THE HOUSE OF WINDSOR, THE QUEEN CARRIED ON, PROVING HERSELF ESSENTIAL AFTER A HALF CENTURY ON THE THRONE



THROUGHOUT HER REIGN, THE QUEEN'S steadfastness was legendary—to her country as its longest-reigning sovereign, to her husband (over seven decades), even to her corgis, handbags and sensible shoes. But nothing would rock her world like the Windsor family scandals of the 1990s, which alienated her subjects and jeopardized the very foundation of the monarchy.

All seemed well when Charles and Lady Diana Spencer got engaged in February 1981. Diana had all the traditional requirements of a future Queen—she was from a wealthy aristocratic family and grew up in a house on the Queen's Sandringham estate playing with princes Andrew and Edward. She was fresh, beautiful and didn't have, what was euphemistically called, a “past.” To the Queen's mind, all was set for her smooth transition to the royal way of life.

What no one understood at the time was the vulnerable young woman underneath. When Charles left for a prearranged tour of Australia, the 19-year-old felt abandoned. She was also fraught with worry about his relationship with former girlfriend Camilla Parker Bowles. If Elizabeth were aware of the developing crisis, she remained nonetheless ill-equipped to help. “You have to understand that the Queen is the least self-absorbed person you'll ever meet,” said one of her top advisers, according to historian Sally Bedell Smith. “She doesn't tend to talk about herself, and she is not interested in other people's efforts to dwell too much on themselves.”

Just weeks before the wedding, the Queen responded stoically after an assailant fired six blank shots as she rode her horse in her annual birthday parade. Admiration for her courage only added to the emotions growing for the next “wedding of the century” on July 29. The world had gone Di-crazy; even the Archbishop of Canterbury would proclaim, “Here is the stuff of which fairly

1981

Charles and his fiancée, Lady Diana Spencer, with the Queen at Buckingham Palace. Elizabeth, who had known Diana as a child, thought she would be a fine match.



THE GOLDEN YEARS

tales are made.” And the palace delivered just that. Diana arrived in a glass coach and floated down the aisle in an ivory silk taffeta gown with a 25-ft. train. Charles was dashing in his naval commander uniform. They became the first royal couple to kiss on the Buckingham Palace balcony, to wild cheers from the crowd, and the Windsors basked in public approval.

With the newlyweds off on their honeymoon, Elizabeth and Philip attended a grand party at Claridge’s, where giant TV screens played video loops of the wedding held just hours before. The Queen, martini in hand, appeared delighted whenever the camera caught one of her trademark glum faces. “Oh, Philip, do look!” she exclaimed, according to *Elizabeth The Queen* author Sally Bedell Smith. “I’ve got my Miss Piggy face on!” As they reluctantly departed at 1:30 a.m., the Queen said, “I’d love to stay and dance all night.”

But the celebration couldn’t last. Diana and Charles were in trouble from the start, and even the birth of William in 1982 and Harry two years later could not alter their course. When Charles began to see Camilla again, Diana was utterly heartbroken. In desperation she turned to the



1982

Always an avid equestrian, the Queen (above, taking snaps at the Royal Windsor Horse Show) owned dozens of riding- and racehorses.

1982

Even with her constant travels, Elizabeth (in Manchester) still delighted in the crowd.



1981

Diana and Charles appeared to be living a fairy tale on their wedding day, July 29, as they shared a kiss on the Buckingham Palace balcony.



“

THE EXAMPLE AND
CONTINUITY PROVIDED
BY THE QUEEN IS
NOT ONLY VERY RARE
AMONG LEADERS
BUT A GREAT SOURCE OF
PRIDE AND
REASSURANCE”

—PRINCE WILLIAM IN
THE PREFACE TO *ELIZABETH II:
THE STEADFAST*, 2015



1982

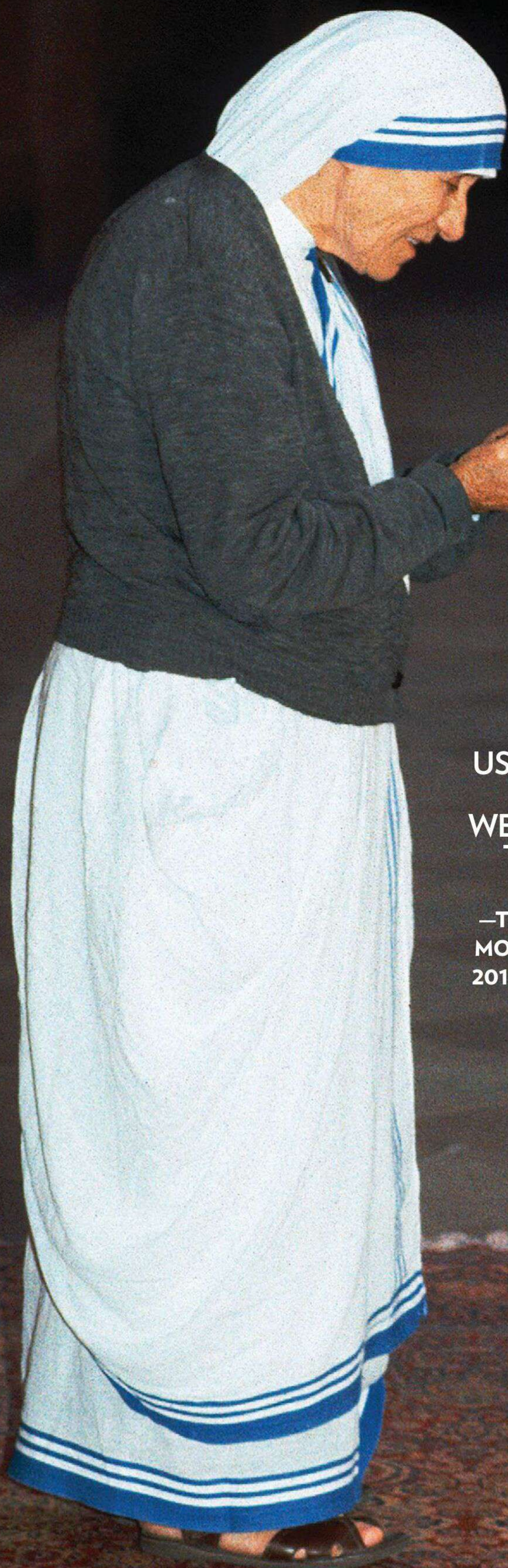
On a royal tour of the South Pacific nation of Tuvalu, the Queen was carried shoulder-high by islanders as she sat on a canoe.



1984

Prince William stole the show at the Dec. 21 christening of his 3-month-old brother Prince Harry (held in Diana's arms). The ceremony, held at Windsor Castle, brought many royal relatives together, including Charles's grandmother the Queen Mother (seated, second from left) and Diana's grandmother Ruth Fermoy (seated, first on left). Diana's divorced parents, father Johnnie Spencer (third from the right, standing) and mother Frances Shand Kydd (seated, first on right), also attended.





“
NOT ALL OF
US CAN DO GREAT
THINGS. BUT
WE CAN DO SMALL
THINGS WITH
GREAT LOVE”
—THE QUEEN, QUOTING
MOTHER TERESA, IN HER
2016 CHRISTMAS SPEECH

1983
Presenting the
Order of Merit
to Mother Teresa
in New Delhi.

1982

The Queen, President Ronald Reagan and a host of security guards took an hour-long ride in Home Park near Windsor Castle. The Queen, who had a policy of not speaking with journalists, stood by as Reagan described her to the press as “charming” and “down-to-earth.”



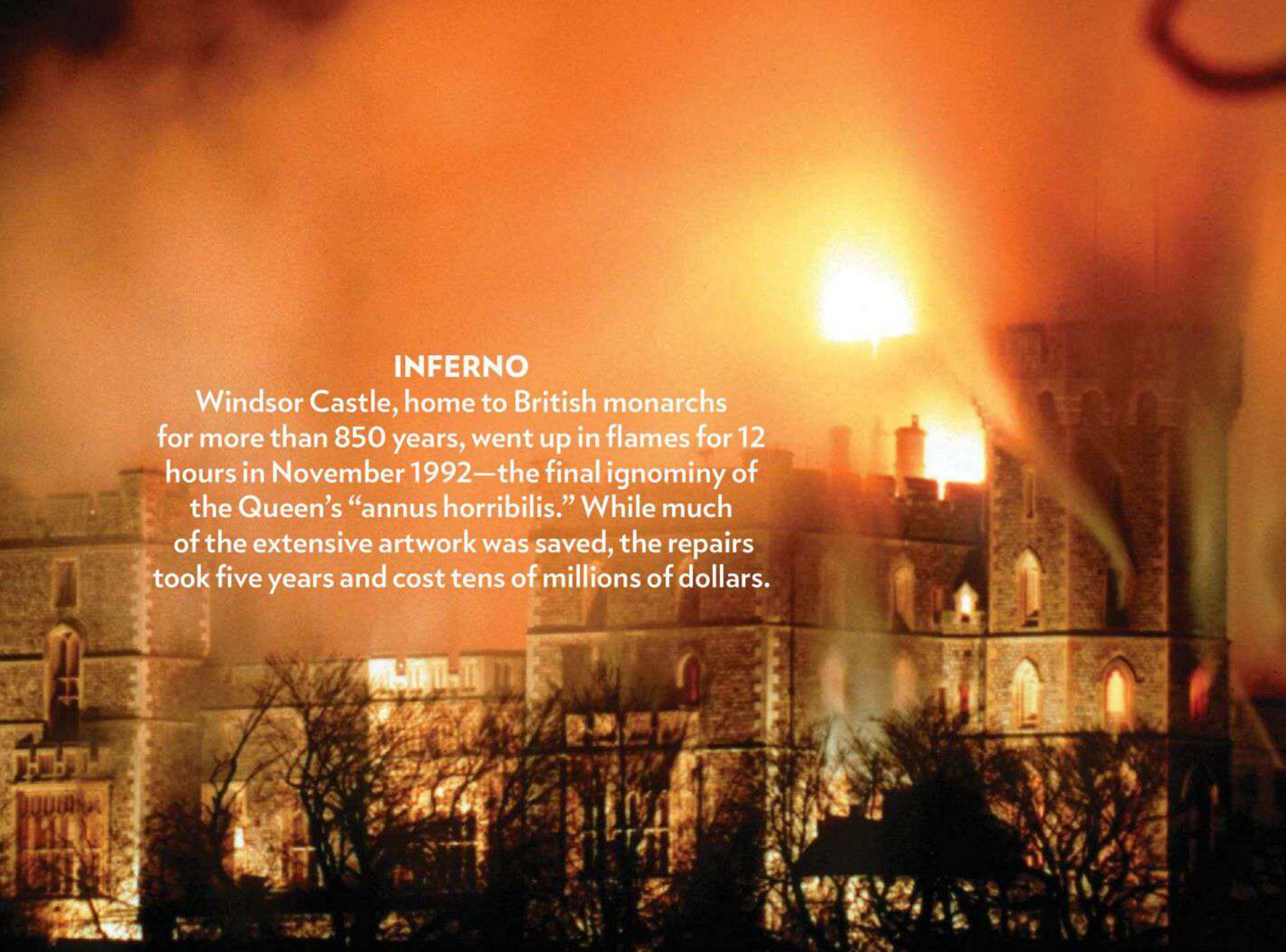
Queen for help. “I went to the top lady sobbing and I said, ‘What do I do? I’m coming to you. What do I do?’” Diana later said in a video broadcast only in 2017. “And she said, ‘I don’t know what you should do. Charles is hopeless.’ And that was it. That was help!” But “the Queen was not prepared for it and simply didn’t know how,” said Ingrid Seward author of the *The Queen’s Speech*. She grew up in a time “where you never said anything more than ‘I’ve got a bit of a tummy pain’ to your mother.”

She was, however, always prepared to get on with the job. A cousin attributed this to an ability to compartmentalize: “It’s as if she’s got lots of little rooms in her brain and she can shut the door on the worry ones, so she can concentrate on being a good hostess or doing a public engagement.” In 1982 she hosted her good friends Ronald and Nancy Reagan at Windsor Castle, where she saddled up with the President for an hour’s ride in a carefully planned photo-op—and then did it again



1983

With Reagan in California, the Queen joked of the torrential rain: “I know . . . we have exported many of our traditions to the U.S., but I had not realized . . . that weather was one of them.”



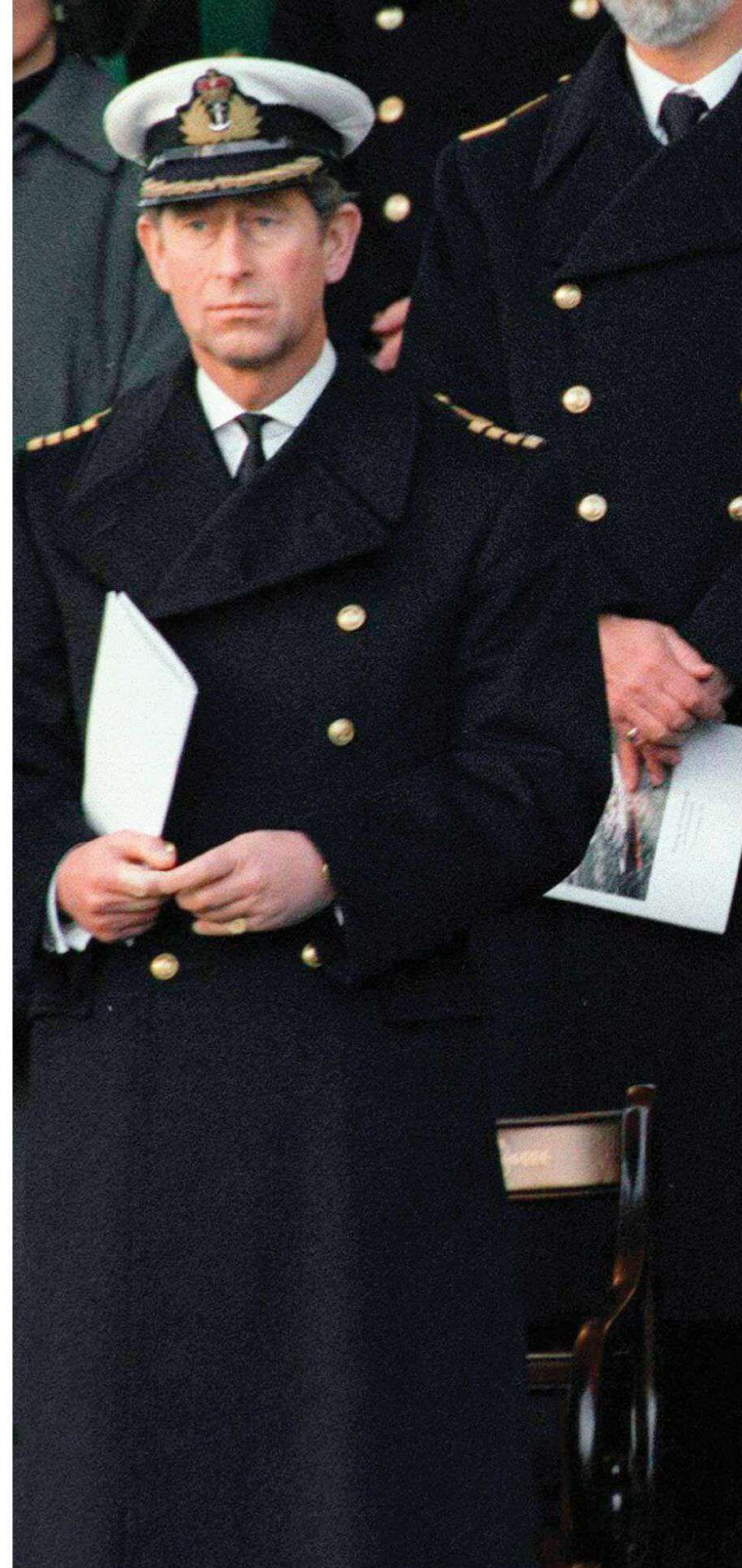
INFERNO

Windsor Castle, home to British monarchs for more than 850 years, went up in flames for 12 hours in November 1992—the final ignominy of the Queen’s “annus horribilis.” While much of the extensive artwork was saved, the repairs took five years and cost tens of millions of dollars.



SURVEYING THE DAMAGE

The Queen rushed to the site and was described by Prince Andrew as “absolutely devastated.”



“

1992 IS NOT A YEAR ON WHICH I SHALL LOOK BACK WITH UNDILUTED PLEASURE”

—THE QUEEN’S ANNUS HORRIBILIS SPEECH

OFF DUTY

The 412-ft. yacht hosted four royal honeymoons and the family's annual summer cruise to Scotland. The Queen called it "the one place I can truly relax."

FLOATING EMBASSY

The Queen (with private secretary Martin Charteris) working late on official business. Many world leaders have visited the elegant state rooms in the Royal Apartments, including a dining room that could seat 56.



FAREWELL, BRITANNIA

The Queen (with Charles and Philip) shed a tear at the ceremony decommissioning the Royal Yacht *Britannia* in 1997 after 44 years of service and 968 official voyages. It is now open to the public in Edinburgh.



the following year at the President's California ranch. She also visited Hollywood, which she called "a girlhood dream," where she was serenaded by Frank Sinatra and Perry Como on a soundstage transformed into a lush California garden.

The decade's most momentous tour was the 1986 visit to China. It was a first for a British monarch and came soon after testy negotiations returned Hong Kong to China after almost 100 years. The Communist regime prepared an extravagant welcome—though the prince diverted some of the good will with one of his infamous gaffes, telling a British student, "If you stay here much longer, you will go home with slitty eyes."

Nineteen-ninety-two was supposed to be a happy year celebrating the anniversary of the Queen's 40th year on the throne. But, as the Queen was to famously say, "It has turned out to be an annus horribilis." The marriages of three of her four children were dissolving. Second son Andrew seemed to have found his soul-

mate in Sarah Ferguson, but they began living apart after their two daughters were born and agreed to a separation in March. The next month Princess Anne began divorce proceedings against her husband of 18 years, Mark Phillips, followed eight months later by her second marriage, to navy commander Timothy Laurence. And in December, Prime Minister John Major announced that Charles and Diana were separating, a decision that had been made at the Queen's urging.

And then there were the media sideshows. In August Sarah was splashed on the tabloids topless and having her toes sucked by an American "financial adviser." British tabloids published embarrassing conversations between Charles and Camilla as well as of Diana and her then-lover James Gilbey. And Andrew Morton's biography *Diana: Her True Story* revealed her private struggles, including suicide attempts. Little did anyone know at the time that Diana herself supplied the interviews. "It rocked the royal family," said Bedell Smith.

Her family had taken so much heat that year that Queen Elizabeth joked that she couldn't wait for 1992 to be over. Then came the inferno. On Nov. 20, her 45th wedding anniversary, Windsor Castle burned for 15 hours, destroying or damaging 100 rooms. Prince Andrew described the Queen as "absolutely devastated." The symbolism was hard to ignore—the House of Windsor seemed to be collapsing for all to see. "Nineteen-hundred and ninety-two is not a year on which I shall look back with undiluted pleasure," the Queen said in a speech three days later.

The scandals opened the royals to intense criticism, especially after a recession-weary public was asked to foot the \$90 million tab for castle restorations. The Queen, whose fortune was then estimated at \$500 million, read the nation's mood and agreed to start paying income tax on her private income and to pay 70 percent of the restoration costs. She also opened Buckingham Palace to the public to generate extra funds.

It didn't seem that Charles and Di story could get much worse until her controversial 1995 Panorama interview candidly discussed her own and Charles's infidelities. In her most-repeated quote, she said there were "three of us in this marriage, so it was a bit crowded," about her husband's ongoing affair with Camilla. At this point the Queen realized that any reconciliation was impossible. A month later she wrote to Charles and Diana to encourage a divorce. It was granted eight months later, the fourth major divorce in Elizabeth's reign.

The news of Diana's death in a car crash in Paris on Aug. 31, 1997, reached the Queen at around 4:00 a.m. while on her annual family holiday at Balmoral. Though she was deeply shaken, her training took precedence, and she and her family attended church that morning showing few signs of distress. It was the first of many miscalculations. As the week wore on and the pile of flowers in front of the palace gates grew, public anger festered at the Queen's silence and her refusal to leave Scotland or to fly a flag at half-mast above Buckingham Palace. The headlines declared, "Show Us You Care," and "Your people are suffering—speak to us, Ma'am."

It took five days, but the Queen, with help from Prime Minister Tony Blair, came to see that her absence reflected poorly on the monarchy, in the public perception. On Friday the royal family returned to London and mingled with the grieving well-wishers outside the Buckingham Palace gates. In a broadcast that evening, the Queen paid tribute to Diana, calling her an "exceptional and gifted



“
‘I DON'T KNOW
WHAT YOU SHOULD DO.
CHARLES IS HOPELESS’”
—PRINCESS DIANA, QUOTING
WHAT SHE SAID WAS THE QUEEN'S
REACTION TO HER FAILING MARRIAGE,
TO SPEECH COACH PETER SETTELEN





FALLEN FAIRY TALE

When Diana candidly discussed Charles's infidelity and her own affairs in a TV interview in 1995, the marriage passed the point of no return.

STOP THE PRESSES

A month later the Queen wrote to encourage a divorce, reported in frantic headlines in the British press. It was granted in 1996, a year before Diana's death.

HAPPIER DAYS

Prince Andrew and his fiancée, Sarah Ferguson, with the Queen on the Palace balcony in 1986. After the birth of two daughters, the marriage ended in 1996. For many years after, they remained, as Ferguson said, "the happiest divorced couple in the world."





PAYING TRIBUTE

After conferring with Prime Minister Tony Blair, the royal family relented, returning to London and visiting the sea of flowers left outside Buckingham Palace.





2000
With Margaret and Elizabeth, the Queen Mother marked her 100th birthday on the Buckingham Palace balcony.



1936
In a letter to her husband (written sometime in the 1930s), Elizabeth advised him never to shout at their daughters, "as otherwise you lose their delightful trust in you."

THE QUEEN'S MUM

BRITAIN'S MOST BELOVED ROYAL WAS A LOVING MOTHER, A LEGENDARY BON VIVANT AND THE BACKBONE OF A NATION

Prince Charles called his grandmother "the original life enhancer," and indeed Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, was famous for her *joie de vivre*. But she was also a woman of strength, helping to guide the monarchy through abdication, world war and scandal. She supported her husband as he overcame his stammer to become a confident King; together they won Britain's heart by refusing to leave Buckingham Palace during the German blitz. Indeed, she spoke so forcefully to Britain's allies that Hitler called her the most dangerous woman in Europe.

She and Queen Eliza-

beth adored each other and chatted daily, often about their shared love of horse racing. In other ways they were opposites: The Queen Mum employed a staff of up to 50 to keep her looking her best in couture and abundant jewelry—and racked up debts that her thrifty daughter covered. It was a measure of her popularity that hardly a protesting word was heard about the Queen Mum's extravagance. When she died in 2002 at age 101, the nation mourned—and resting on top of her coffin was a wreath of white camellias with a card from her daughter that read, "In loving memory—Lilibet."



FIFTY YEARS

The Queen and her Prince took a spin in the Gold State Coach in a procession from the Palace to St. Paul's Cathedral to celebrate her Golden Jubilee in 2002.

PALACE PARTY

Brian May, guitarist for the band Queen, kicked off the all-star concert by playing the National Anthem on the palace roof as "God Save the Queen" was projected on its facade. The Queen wore yellow earplugs as Elton John, Ozzy Osbourne and Ricky Martin rocked.

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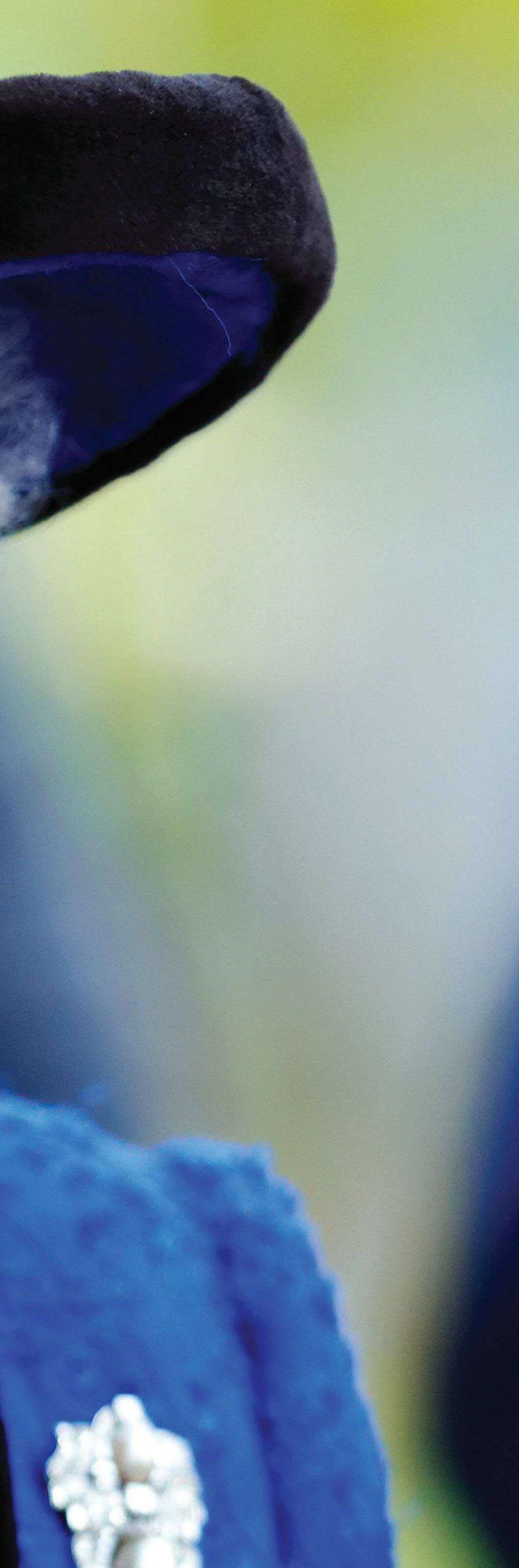
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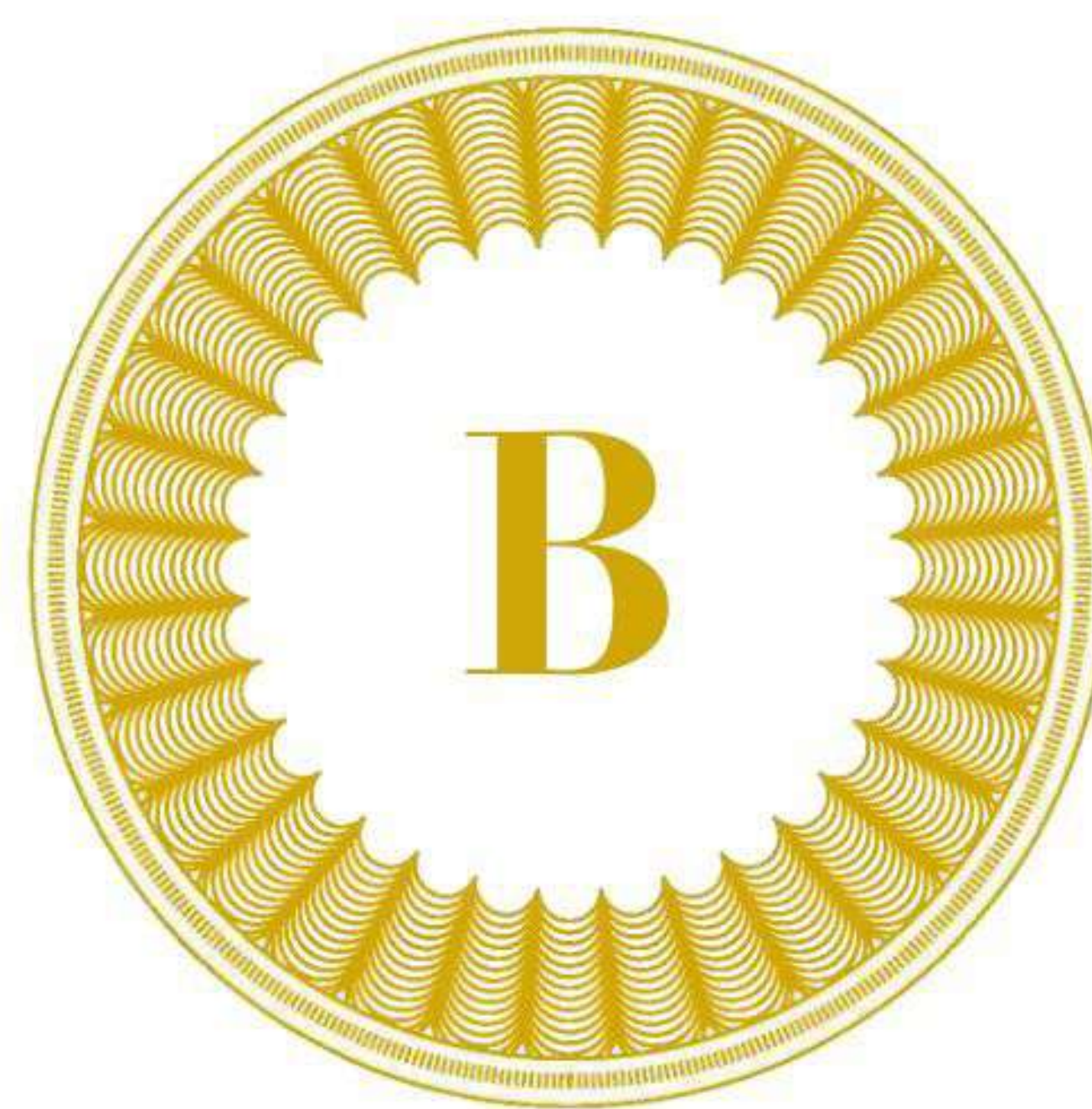
ENDURING

Queen Elizabeth at Ascot racetrack in October 2021. She reliably favored bright colors, statement brooches and, often, dark-chocolate mints, kept in her handbag.



HER DIAMOND ERA

THE QUEEN CELEBRATED
A RECORD-SETTING REIGN
EVEN AS SHE ENJOYED
SEEING THE NEXT
GENERATION COME UP



BY HER 80TH BIRTHDAY, IN 2006, the Queen's popularity had made a splendid comeback and the Windsors were "a family happy once again, the more credible for the traumas they have been through," said biographer Robert Lacey. It caused virtually no ripples when, with his mother's consent, Prince Charles, then 56, married Camilla Parker Bowles. The 2005 civil ceremony came nearly 20 years after it was revealed that the couple, who had dated in the 1970s, had reconnected during Charles's marriage to Diana.

Even before the disapproving reaction to how she responded to Diana's death, the Queen had grown aware that the monarchy had to stay in sync with the times and with public sentiment. Buckingham Palace opened to tourists (for a fee and only when the Queen was at Balmoral), made its finances more transparent and launched a website, Twitter account and YouTube channel.



2006
A lifelong horse-
woman, Elizabeth rode
on a spring day through
the grounds of
Windsor Castle.



2005

"After more than 30 star-crossed years," said *The New York Times*, "Charles and Camilla finally married." The Queen didn't attend the civil ceremony, but she attended their blessing service and threw a lavish reception.

2006

When she turned 80, Elizabeth received 20,000 cards and 17,000 emails and met thousands of well-wishers gathered outside Windsor Castle.



“
SHE IS AN EXAMPLE
TO SO MANY
OF SERVICE, DUTY
AND DEVOTION
IN A WORLD
OF SOMETIMES
BEWILDERING
CHANGE AND
DISORIENTATION”
—PRINCE CHARLES, ON HIS
MOTHER’S 80TH BIRTHDAY

By far the Queen’s greatest ambassadors were her grandchildren. “She has been known to say that it’s William who will take the monarchy into the 21st century,” a royal insider told *People* in 2000. The Queen had mentored William since he was a teen, guiding him through the “red boxes” as her father had done for her. He, in turn, called his beloved granny “a fantastic role model.... It’s been incredibly insightful for me growing up watching her leadership.”

When William wed Catherine Middleton on April 29, 2011, no one was happier than the Queen, beaming in buttercup yellow on the palace balcony as the newlyweds kissed. Her relationship with Kate grew only warmer. They were spotted sharing laughs at official events, and Kate often sported Her Majesty’s jewels, happily loaned. “The Queen would do anything to sup-

port Kate,” biographer Ingrid Seward said then. “I think she looks at Kate as the most wonderful thing to have happened to her family.”

Adding to her happiness, the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee year in 2012, marking 60 years on the throne, was a triumph. The June celebration was capped by a 1,000-boat flotilla on the River Thames. The next month, at the opening ceremony of the London Olympics, she aced her acting debut by saying, “Good evening, Mr. Bond” to 007 star Daniel Craig before the two appeared to jump from a helicopter into the stadium. (The Queen drew the line at doing her own stunts.) To cap off a very grand year, the palace announced that Kate was pregnant with an heir to the throne.

On Sept. 9, 2015, Elizabeth became Britain’s longest-



2011

The Queen approved the menu and flowers for her grandson's wedding to Catherine Middleton (left) and agreed to an allocation of only 40 guests. After the ceremony she shared her joy (above) with the bride's mother, Carole Middleton, and the groom's stepmother Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall.

2015

Right: Prince George and his Gan-Gan at his sister Charlotte's christening at Sandringham.

2018

Elizabeth and Philip with some of their great-grandchildren, in a portrait taken by Kate, the Duchess of Cambridge. From left: George, Louis, Savannah Phillips (standing), Charlotte, Isla Phillips (holding Lena Tindall) and Mia Tindall.







reigning monarch, surpassing Queen Victoria by serving more than 63 years and 216 days. She marked the occasion in characteristically modest form, opening a railway in Scotland. The next year she turned 90 and completed 330 engagements—more than William and Kate combined. Her Sapphire Jubilee (65 years), in 2017, was a first. Even then she showed no desire to abdicate; a poll indicated 70 percent of U.K. citizens agreed with that choice. And though the Queen never sat for a formal interview, she found ways to connect with the public. In a promo filmed with Prince Harry for the Invictus Games for wounded warriors, Her Majesty gave an amusingly imperial comeback to a mic-drop challenge from the Obamas: “Oh, really, puh-lease!” she deadpanned.

When Meghan Markle entered the royal orbit, the Queen extended a warm welcome, gladly breaking protocol to invite Markle to her 2017 Christmas celebration six months before the 2018 wedding to Harry, an honor usually open only to royal spouses. (It may have helped that they were both dog lovers.)





2014

Left: Elizabeth and Philip honored British history by arriving at Parliament in a coach built with fragments of Henry VIII's warship the *Mary Rose*, Isaac Newton's apple tree and timber from the yacht *Britannia*.

2012

Diamond Jubilee celebrants filled the Mall (below), and a Thames flotilla was led by the *Spirit of Chartwell*, festooned with 10,000 flowers.

LONDON OLYMPICS

Her Majesty was escorted from Buckingham Palace to the 2012 Olympics by Agent 007 (Daniel Craig, her costar in an opening-ceremony film short). She delivered her one line with aplomb: "Good evening, Mr. Bond."





2015

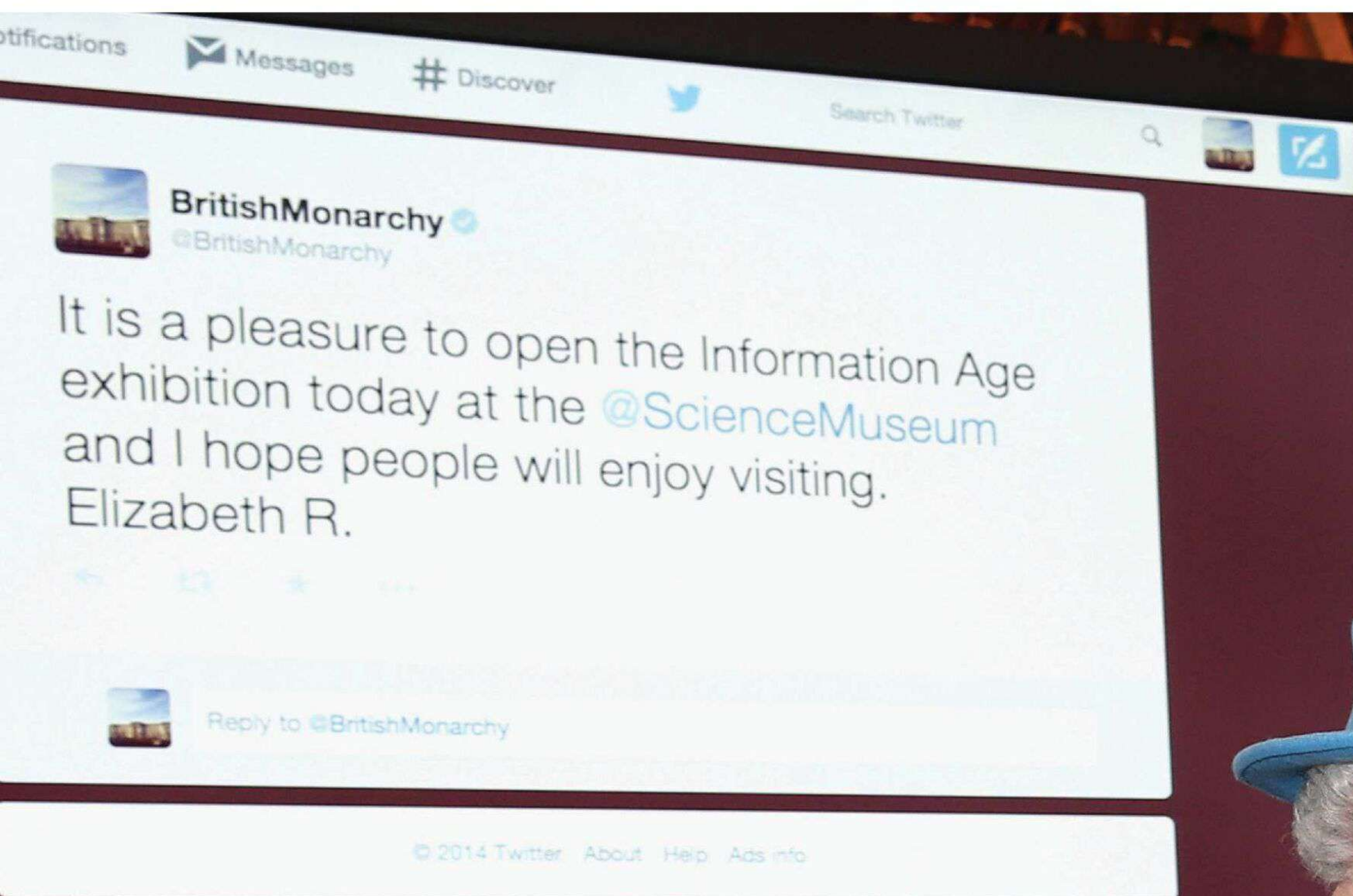
Elizabeth at her desk in Buckingham Palace with a “red box” containing government documents that she received almost every day of her reign.

2014

Her Majesty tweeted for the first time at London’s Science Museum’s Information Age exhibition. The “R” in her sign-off stands for “Regina,” meaning queen.

2018

Leaving the Order of the Thistle Service at St. Giles’ Cathedral in Edinburgh, the Queen and William were in grand plumage.





“

‘THERE HAS ALWAYS
BEEN A SPECIAL
CLOSENESS BETWEEN
WILLIAM AND THE
QUEEN, AND SHE HAS
TAKEN A PARTICULAR
INTEREST IN HIM’

—ROBERT LACEY, HISTORIAN

“Perhaps only now do we realize that it has been one of Elizabeth’s skills to modernize the monarchy without appearing overtly to be doing so—and this is the latest sign of it,” Lacey told *People*. Another sign: Skyping with the grandkids and their kids as the family grew. She marveled in her 2018 Christmas address about the “busy year” that included the birth of her sixth and seventh great-grandchildren, Prince Louis

(to William and Kate) and Lena (to Zara and Mike Tindall): “It helps to keep a grandmother well occupied.”

The Queen also delighted at the 2019 arrival of her eighth great-grandchild, Archie, born to Harry and Meghan. When, the next year, the couple chose to move to America and step away from royal duties, Elizabeth said in a statement: “We respect and understand their wish to live a more independent life as a family while



2009

President Barack and Michelle Obama's first meeting with the Queen developed into a warm relationship.

2013

Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Prize winner for her advocacy of girls' education, presented a copy of her memoir *I Am Malala*.

2014

Angelina Jolie became an honorary dame for her campaign against sexual violence in war zones. Her then-husband, Brad Pitt, and their six children met the Queen after the ceremony.

2018

At 91, Elizabeth took in London Fashion Week, sitting front row with *Vogue*'s Anna Wintour at the show of Richard Quinn, who had won the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II Award for British Design.



remaining a valued part of my family.” In 2021 the couple shocked the world with an interview given to Oprah Winfrey that, while notably exempting the Queen, charged that the palace had treated them poorly, from staff denying Meghan’s requests for mental health treatment when she said she felt suicidal to family members fretting over the color of Archie’s skin. The Queen issued a response: “The whole family is saddened to learn the full extent of how challenging the last few years have been for Harry and Meghan. . . . The issues raised, particularly that of race, are concerning. While some recollections may vary, they are taken very seriously and will be addressed by the family privately.” She added: “Harry, Meghan and Archie will always be much-loved family members.” (At the time of the interview, Meghan was pregnant with Lilibet, who was given the Queen’s childhood name. In all, the Queen would live to meet 12 great-grandchildren.)

Sharing the joy of the expanding family, and the burden of the rift that broke open between Harry and his brother and father, Elizabeth had her “strength and stay,” husband Philip. The Duke of Edinburgh could be exuberant where his wife was



2018

Above: Meghan and Harry were at Buckingham Palace for the Queen's Young Leaders Awards.



2018

Left: The pleasure of taking in an Egham, England, polo match—or something her husband had just said—put a smile on Her Majesty's face.

2020

At the July 17 wedding of Princess Beatrice to Edoardo Mapelli Mozzi in Windsor, the bride wore a vintage Norman Hartnell gown, on loan from the Queen.





2021
Mourning her husband, Elizabeth sat alone in the pews of St. George's Chapel, owing to pandemic protocols. Philip, 99, had died April 9.

“

BEHIND WHAT THE WORLD SEES, YOU HAVE TWO INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE VERY MUCH IN LOVE, AND BOTH, FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE... DEDICATED THEIR LIFE TO SERVICE. THAT IS AN INCREDIBLE BOND BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE”

—PRINCE HARRY, ON THE QUEEN AND PRINCE PHILIP



“

We will be with our
friends again; we will be
with our families again;
we will meet again

”

Her Majesty The Queen
Message to the Nation

Photo: PA Media



GAP

A COMFORT IN HARD TIMES

During the 2020 coronavirus lockdown, London's streets went quiet. Elizabeth and Philip sheltered at Windsor, from which she carried out duties by Zoom. Her Christmas address that year honored nurses and spoke to those who had lost loved ones or who were isolated and wanted only a "simple hug or squeeze of the hand." When vaccines became available, she made sure people knew she had had hers. Still, she contracted COVID in early 2022. The illness leaves "one feeling very tired," she reported.



2021

In the months following her husband's death, the Queen (clockwise, from above) spoke at Parliament; joined the Duchesses of Cambridge and Cornwall at the Eden Project's Big Lunch, a community-building event; and welcomed President and Mrs. Biden to Windsor during the June G7 summit. Philip "would have wanted her to crack on," an insider told *People*.



reticent, opinionated while she held her tongue, famous for his verbal faux pas while her every utterance was considered. "As a team they are faultless," a former member of the palace staff told *People*. In 2017 Philip retired from official duties. And in April 2021, at the age of 99, he died at home in Windsor. He and Elizabeth had been married for more than 73 years and were sweethearts before that. Their love story was immense and historic, but with the country still following COVID-19 protocols, his funeral was necessarily modest in scope, with people sitting at intervals in St. George's Chapel at

Windsor Castle. The Queen, in black and masked, had a pew to herself. "Everybody saw the image of Her Majesty sitting alone," said grandson Peter Phillips. "It would have been the same for any other family: The hardest part is not being able to hug those closest to the person who's been lost."

As she emerged from mourning, which she called "a period of great sadness," Elizabeth acknowledged the comfort of "the support and kindness shown to us in recent days." She then returned to an impressively full schedule. It was spring, and she chose floral



dresses and pastel hats for her appearances. In the fall she began the baton relay leading up to the 2022 Commonwealth Games, to be held in Birmingham, by passing the torch to Paralympian Kadeena Cox. She honored her husband's passion for conservation by speaking to the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Glasgow.

At 95, she had been advised by doctors to give up her daily cocktail and horse riding, but even after she had been prescribed resting at home, she was soon spotted at the wheel of her green Jaguar. Already, plan-

ning was underway for her Platinum Jubilee.

The 21-year-old princess who had dedicated her life to service in 1947 exceeded all expectations, ruling her nation with calm for a record reign. Yet "change has become a constant," she once said; "the way we embrace it defines our future." She saw momentous transformations in the monarchy, her family and herself. How did Elizabeth view her own achievements? "Inevitably, a long life can pass by many milestones," she said with the humility she carried throughout her reign. "My own is no exception."

“

NONE OF US WILL LIVE FOREVER. BUT WE
ARE DOING THIS NOT FOR OURSELVES BUT FOR OUR
CHILDREN AND OUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN,
AND THOSE WHO WILL FOLLOW IN THEIR FOOTSTEPS”
—ELIZABETH II, ADDRESSING THE U.N. CLIMATE SUMMIT





2021
The Queen spoke to the United Nations climate summit in Glasgow via video. The photo on her desk is of Philip, swarmed by butterflies on a conservation trip to Mexico.



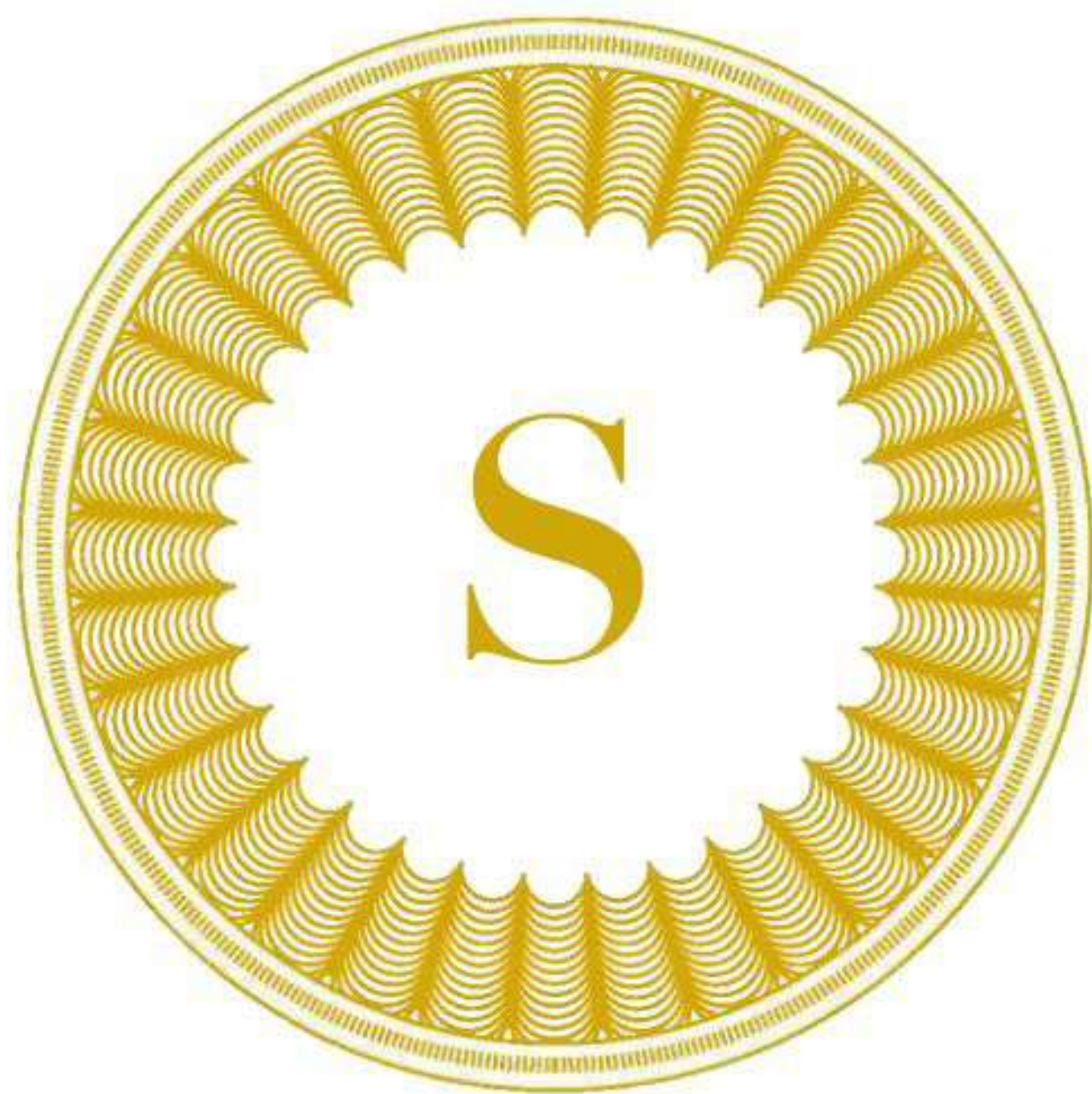
GOOD SHOW!

"When it comes to how to mark 70 years as your Queen, there is no guidebook to follow. It really is a first," said Elizabeth (at Buckingham Palace on June 2, 2022, with Anne, Camilla, Charles, Louis, Kate, Charlotte, George, Will and Sophie).



HER PLATINUM JUBILEE

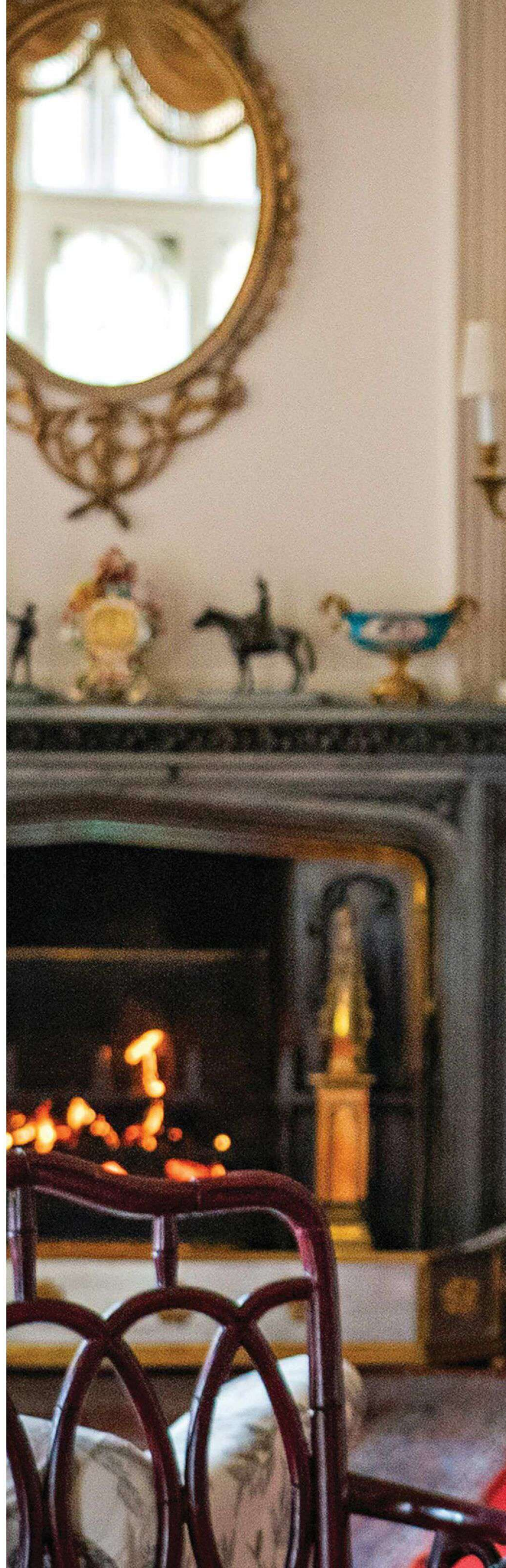
IN 2022 BRITONS POURED
INTO THE STREETS TO
CELEBRATE THEIR BELOVED
QUEEN'S 70 YEARS ON THE
THRONE AT A BRILLIANT BASH



SHE HAD ENDURED, LIKE BRITAIN itself, through world war, through economic crises and tabloid scandals, through Brexit and COVID-19, including a February 2022 bout of her own. Once the widowed Queen had recovered and returned to work, it was time to cut loose and throw her—and the country—a brilliant party: Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee, honoring her 70 years on the throne. That reign made her the second-longest-serving sovereign monarch in history, topped only by Louis XIV, the storied Sun King of 17th-century France (who rates an asterisk, as he was crowned at age 4 but did not take charge until he turned 18). Celebrations began months in advance of the June 2 anniversary of her coronation, with her royal relatives crisscrossing Britain for a series of regional events. The Jubilee culminated in four days of London festivities at which Elizabeth's attendance was cheered and her absences wistfully noted.

The Queen, then 96, was publicly visible for only a combined 30 minutes. Even so, Her Majesty appeared delighted, a broad smile often illuminating her famously stoic features—never more so than when she was in the presence of Louis, her 4-year-old great-grandson. William and Kate's youngest child—"a cheeky monkey," one family acquaintance told *People*—stole scenes (and launched memes) with his mugging and mischief. But the Jubilee belonged to his great-grandmum, who was met with wild cheering by the vast crowd lining London's Mall as she appeared on Buckingham Palace's iconic balcony for the opening event, Trooping the Colour, June 2. "The overwhelming feeling was of a tremendous flow of affection to the Queen from the public," said her former press secretary Charles Anson, "whether they were monarchists or not."

The week did hold its share of family drama. The Queen's second son, Andrew, remained out of view, having been sidelined by a case of COVID. Perhaps conveniently so, given that he had recently been stripped of most of his royal titles after paying to settle a suit alleging he sexually abused an underage woman trafficked by convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein. (Andrew has denied any wrongdoing.) Then there was the hotly anticipated return from the U.S. of Prince





JOY IN DUTY

"She was radiant and very, very happy," Bruno Peek, a Jubilee organizer, told *People*. "She has always been a beacon of light, a beacon of hope and a beacon of continuity."



A LOYAL FRIEND

"And where did you come from? I know what you want," the Queen said when Candy, her Dorgi, showed up in the Oak Room at Windsor Castle on Feb. 4, 2022, as she reviewed memorabilia from past jubilees.

Harry and his American wife, Meghan Markle, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, who were no longer working royals and whose relationship with much of the family had become strained. While the royal press parsed every tense interaction Meghan and Harry may have had with his father and brother, the Queen, with whom Harry maintained a close bond, had a happy visit with the young family. They introduced her to daughter Lilibet, named in the monarch's honor, and celebrated her first birthday at Frogmore Cottage.

Her Majesty was as disappointed as anyone when her physical woes forced her to miss a number of events, including the June 4 Service of Thanksgiving in her honor at St. Paul's Cathedral. It wasn't so much her own discomfort that kept her from participating—like a great athlete, Her Majesty often played through pain—but a determination to maintain her own high standards. "She would not want to stumble," said historian Robert Lacey. "Not for her own sake, but for the distress it would cause other people."

Prince Charles stood in when his mother bowed out, and the Queen was happy to cede the spotlight. "She sees this as a great opportunity for the transition to be visible," Lacey said. Added the Queen's biographer Sally Bedell Smith: "This gets people accustomed to

[Charles's] future role as King. There was a feeling of celebrating the past and anticipating the new era."

While Elizabeth could not attend the June 4 concert at the palace, she did display her impish sense of humor by opening the event with a hilarious sketch, prerecorded at Windsor Castle, featuring another British icon: Paddington Bear. In the film, the monarch hosted the famously peckish bear for tea... and revealed what she kept in her trusty handbag: a marmalade sandwich! "Happy Jubilee, Ma'am," Paddington said. "And thank you... for everything." Then, matching the tapping of her spoon on a teacup, drummers outside broke into Queen's "We Will Rock You."

Her surprise June 5 appearance on the Buckingham Palace balcony alongside the close family who make up the monarchy's future—Charles and Camilla, William, Kate and their children—had an unspoken feeling of finality to it. "I have been inspired by the kindness, joy and kinship that has been so evident in recent days," Elizabeth said in a statement. "And I hope this renewed sense of togetherness will be felt for many years to come." But then, not long after, she was back on the job, holding a June 21 audience with the Archbishop of Canterbury at Windsor. The party was over. The Queen, however, carried very much on.



MAKING THE CUT

Left: "Somebody else can do the rest," Elizabeth said after she broke into a cake at Sandringham on Feb. 5. Above: At Cardiff Castle in Wales for a June Jubilee event, Will and Kate accompanied George and Charlotte at their first official royal appearance.

TAKE THE E TRAIN

Below: Her Majesty made a surprise visit on May 17 to open the new Elizabeth Line at the London Underground's Paddington Station.





TOT ADORBS

Above: Prince Louis stole the show at Trooping the Colour (in the same sailor suit his dad wore to Trooping in 1985, with the Queen, Kate and sister Charlotte). “We all had an incredible time,” his parents tweeted. “Especially Louis.”



SADDLED UP

Left: William, Anne and Charles in Trooping the Colour. The Queen last appeared on horseback for the event in 1986.

FLYING COLOURS

Right: RAF Red Arrows performed a flypast. More than 70 military planes, jets and helicopters took part in the six-minute exercise.





GIVING THANKS

Scenes from the Jubilee weekend service at St. Paul's Cathedral. Above: Charles trailed by William. Below: Edward, wife Sophie, daughter Louise and son James. Bottom: Then-prime minister Boris Johnson spoke. Right: A jovial Harry and Meghan mingled.

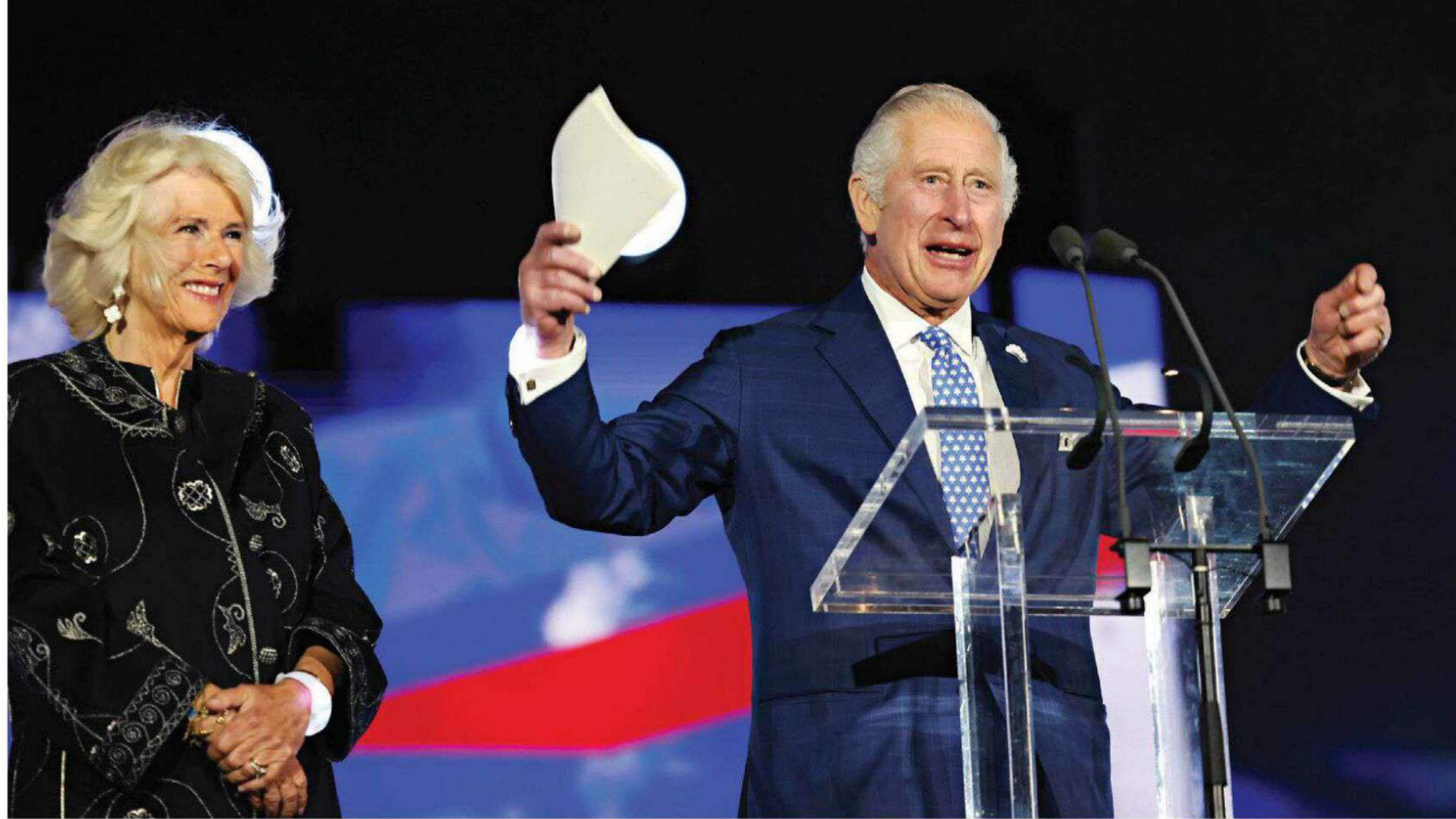






A PAIR OF QUEENS
“We’re very happy to be invited again,” Brian May (jamming before a Queen Victoria statue on June 4) told the BBC. His band, Queen, had also played QEII’s Golden Jubilee.





REALLY BIG SHOW

Right, from top: “Your Majesty, Mummy,” Charles began his speech at the concert. “The scale of this evening’s celebration—and the outpouring of warmth and affection ...is our way of saying thank you.” Princess Eugenie and husband Jack Brooksbank joined the crowd the next day for the Jubilee’s finale.

TEATIME

Left: By then adept at playing herself, the Queen wowed the crowd in a video-taped skit with Paddington Bear.





A MODERN TRIBUTE

Above: The original golden coronation carriage bore a hologram of the young Queen.

TAKING THE CAKE

Left: Camilla and Charles eyed the sweets at the Big Jubilee Lunch at the Oval.

PROGRAM NOTES

Opposite, top: Will and Kate's daughter Charlotte read up on the Platinum Pageant, a four-act extravaganza celebrating the Queen's reign.

CHEERS

Opposite: "The place went wild," former aide Charles Anson said of the Queen's final bow, alongside great-grandson George, at the close of the Jubilee.





“
WHILE I MAY
NOT HAVE
ATTENDED EVERY
EVENT IN PERSON,
MY HEART HAS
BEEN WITH YOU
ALL”
—ELIZABETH II



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A WIFE AND A MUM

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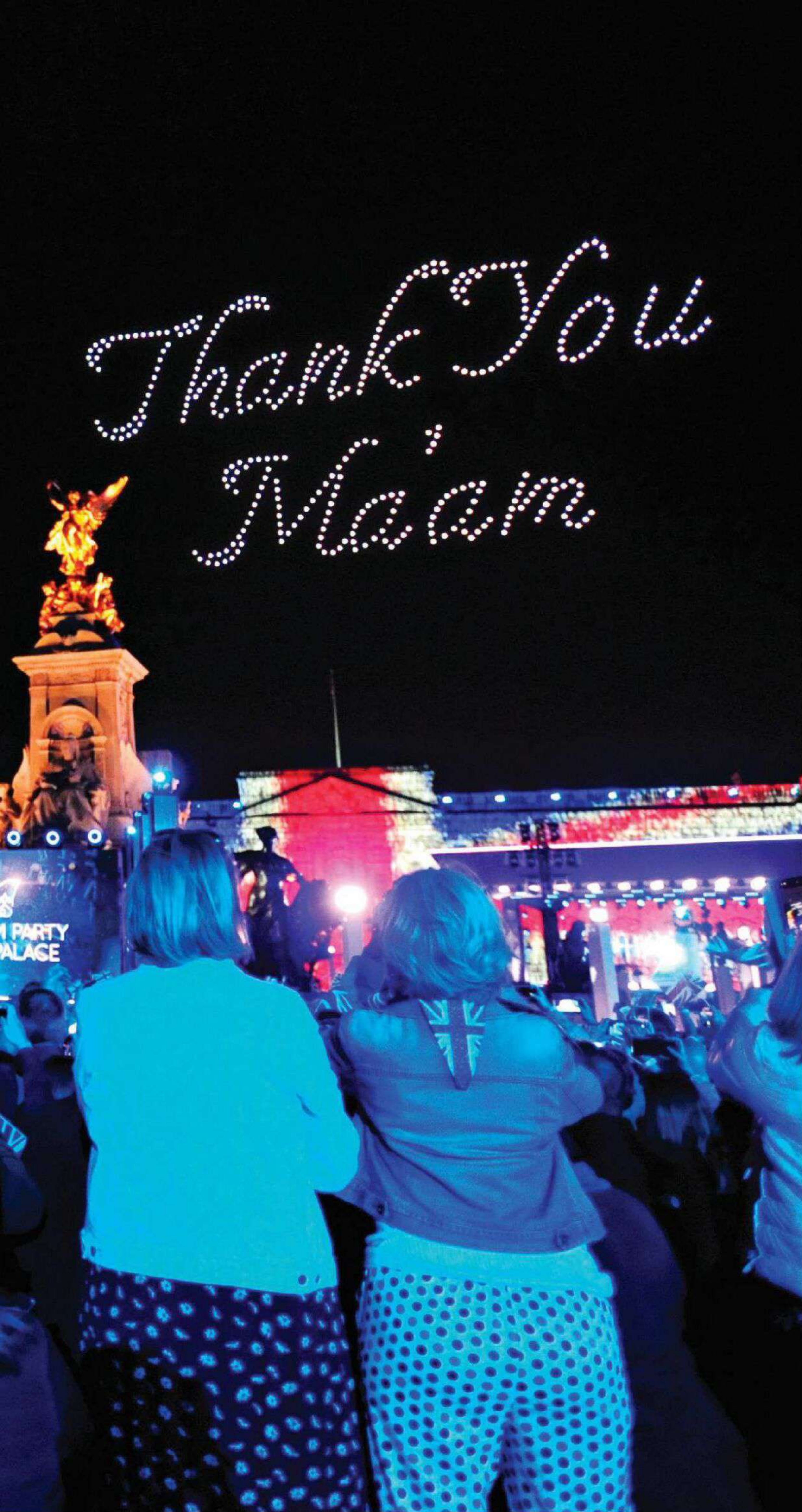
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During the June 2022 celebration of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, the skies over London glowed with gratitude, thanks to a fleet of drones in formation.



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“

I CANNOT LEAD YOU
INTO BATTLE, I DO
NOT GIVE YOU LAWS
OR ADMINISTER
JUSTICE, BUT I CAN
DO SOMETHING
ELSE—I CAN GIVE YOU
MY HEART AND MY
DEVOTION TO THESE
OLD ISLANDS AND TO
ALL THE PEOPLES OF
OUR BROTHERHOOD
OF NATIONS”

—ELIZABETH II, 1957





“

Her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the Realms and the Commonwealth and by countless people around the world. During this period of mourning and change, my family and I will be comforted and sustained by our knowledge of the respect and deep affection in which the Queen was so widely held”

—KING CHARLES III